

THE
M E M O I R S
OF

Mrs. Sophia Baddeley.

ENTERED AT STATIONERS HALL.

1787.

Elizabeth Steele
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THE

M. E. O. R. S.

OF

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ENTERED AT STATIONERS HALL

1787

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THE 1824

M E M O I R S

O F

Mrs. Sophia Baddeley,

LATE OF DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

B Y

Mrs. ELIZABETH STEELE.

A NEW EDITION.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

L O N D O N :

Printed for the AUTHOR,
And sold by all the Bookfellers.

M.DCC.LXXXVII.

ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.

THE

M. T. M. O. I. R. S.

OF

Mrs. Sophia Radebe

STATE OF NEW-YORK

IN

WILLIAM STANLEY

A. NEW HOLLAND

IN SIX VOLUMES

Vol. I.

L. O. M. O. N.

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THE
M E M O I R S
O F

Mrs. Sophia Baddeley.

I N order to give the reader an opinion of the authenticity of these memoirs, it may not be unnecessary to inform him, that I was acquainted with Mrs. Baddeley from her earlier days; that as children we were brought up together, and educated at the same school; that our in-

Vol. I.

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timacy

timacy continued through the whole of her life, and that for several years of it, she lived in my house; that as her friend and confidante she unboomed herself to me, and that of course there was no material occurrence of her life, but I was made acquainted with; and the subsequent pages and vouchers will declare the truth of this assertion.

I shall not trespass on my reader's patience by a detail of the occurrences of her younger days, I will take her up from the time she became a public character. Such persons as have moved in a conspicuous line of life naturally excite the curiosity of the world. The public has always had its favourites, and since
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the Drama has been known on the English stage, merit in that line has been the best road to acquire its favour. The refined sentiments of this country have not limited its attachments to the public character alone, but the warmth of national gratitude has followed it's favourite from active to retired life, and also extended its tributary beneficence to the tomb, and thus enabled it to survive it's mortal existence. An indulgent public will always make allowances for the frailties of human nature, and either consign them to oblivion in the contemplation of those striking characteristics which attract admiration, or place them in the shade of qualities that deserve commendation. From a conviction
that

that such are the sentiments and disposition of a considerate and dispassionate public, in whose memory Mrs. Baddeley still holds a favourable place, these Memoirs are laid before them, on the confidence of their meeting a candid and indulgent reception.

Mrs Sophia Baddeley was the daughter of Mr. Valentine Snow, late serjeant-trumpeter to his Majesty, and born in the parish of St. Margaret, Westminster, in the year 1745. Her father bestowed on her a very genteel education, and having an uncommon degree of softness and delicacy in her features and person, with every necessary external accomplishment of her sex, she attracted the

at-

attention and esteem of all who knew her, and the tenor of her conduct being regulated by the strictest decorum, ensured her general respect.

She lived with her father till she reached the age of eighteen, who instructed her in music, and was very anxious that she should be thorough mistress of the harpsichord. Music however did not suit her taste so much as a contemplative turn to reading, and the lessons her father gave her were a task of labour. She made her complaints to a neighbouring shop-keeper, with whom Mr. Baddeley lodged, represented her father's anxiety for her improvement as overbearing and tyrannical, and found in this woman that officious

cious interference, that under the name of friendship is too often the source of unseen calamities. She introduced her to her lodger, gave her to understand that she had it then in her power to free herself from a continuance of the same treatment, by accepting the protection of Mr. Robert Baddeley, who belonged to Drury-Lane Theatre, and who would bring her upon the stage. Miss Snow had always a *penchant* for a theatrical life, and this proposal giving her an opportunity of gratifying her inclination, she listened to what Mr. Baddeley had to say, and in a very few days eloped from home, and fled to this neighbour's house, who received her and secreted her, till she became the wife of Mr. Baddeley.

This

This was in the year 1764. He soon procured her an engagement at Drury-lane. Cordelia, in *Lear*, was the first character she appeared in; and young and untutored as she was, she gave most ample proofs of rising merit, testified by the loudest plaudits of the audience.

During the representation of this piece, a singular circumstance happened, (owing to her inexperience, having never seen the play, and being requested to read the part in the absence of an actress that was taken ill) that disturbed the performance much. When Edgar came in, as Mad Tom, his figure and manner gave her such an unexpected shock, that through real terror she screamed, and
fell.

fell down motionless, and it was some time before she recovered. The audience, to an individual, sympathised with her, and she resumed her character, encouraged by the thunder of reiterated applause from every quarter of the house.

Before she had been twelve months on the stage her merit entitled her to estimation as a player, and her accomplishments had gained her general admiration; her vocal powers were in *her* day, on a level with the first public singer. She gave proofs of her abilities at Vauxhall, and was engaged soon after at Ranelagh, at twelve guineas a week. At the theatre she acquitted herself best in genteel comedy, and farther

ther than this, she never attempted; except the part of Mrs. Beverley, in the *Gamester*, which she performed once or twice, during the illness of Mrs. Barry, and was exceedingly well received by the public.

With all the advantages which youth, accomplishments, and the united talents of her and her husband could give her, Mrs. Baddeley was not without her misfortunes. For the space of three years she lived with her husband without any public impeachment on her character; but meeting at Ranelagh with Mr. Mendez, a Jew, he threw himself in her way, became acquainted with her and her husband, alienated her mind from

her conjugal duty, and she, unfortunately listening where she should have turned a deaf ear, agreed to go with him alone on a party of pleasure to Stains-bridge, where she committed an act that deterred her from going back to her own house, but, on her return she flew to Mr. Charles Holland of Drury-lane Theatre; and he thought proper to receive her. She lived with Mr. Holland till the small-pox took him from her.

Dr. Hayes of Marlborough street, the physician who attended Mr. Holland in his last illness, knowing the deserted situation in which Mrs. Baddeley was left by the death of this person, whom she very affectionately loved, began to think
his

his good offices might not be unacceptable to her; made her a tender of them in a very respectful manner, and was assiduous to pay her every attention in his power. Mrs. Baddeley, urged by her deserted situation and the importunity of her suitor, listened to his proposals; he took lodgings for her, and with him she continued eight or nine months; till Mr. David Garrick, manager of the Theatre, insisted on her leaving him; to this she assented, on condition that he would pay her her salary weekly into her own hands. Mr. Baddeley was averse to this, at least till his debts were paid; and as Mr. George Garrick interfered warmly in behalf of Mrs. Baddeley, it had nearly occasioned a

meeting in Hyde-park. The negotiation however being resumed again, Mr. Baddeley agreed that articles of separation should take place between him and his wife, provided Mrs. Baddeley would bind herself and find securities to execute a bond for the payment of his (Mr. Baddeley's) debts, then amounting to eight hundred pounds: this Mrs. Baddeley complied with, and all his debts were discharged through my hands, agreeable to the compact. The conditions of the bond were, that all debts due before the separation should be paid by Mrs. Baddeley, and that her husband should be indemnified from any debts contracted by her hereafter. The separation took place about the year 1767.

Mr.

Mr. Baddeley was indeed sued afterwards for two debts contracted by his wife, the costs of which were paid by me to his attorney, Mr. Levy, of Fetterlane; having got rid of these debts by proving the articles of separation, and that his wife was in the receipt of her own salary.

Notwithstanding their separation, Mr. and Mrs. Baddeley continued to perform at the same theatre, but exchanged not a word with each other, save in their respective characters on the stage. In the performance of the *Clandestine Marriage*, when their Majesties were present, Mrs. Baddeley played Fanny; Mr. Baddeley, Canton; and, Mr. King,

Lord Ogleby. Before Fanny joined them on the stage, the accommodating Swiss had exerted and exhausted all his adulation in order to recommend her to his Lordship's notice.

Lord Ogleby. Ah! La petite Fanchon! — She's the thing ;—Is she not, Cant ?

Canton. Dere is very good sympatie entre vous & dat young lady, my Lor.

Lord Ogleby. If she goes, I'll positively go too.

Canton. In the same post-chay, my Lor ?— You have no objection ? — ha, ha, ha.

The effect which the officious assiduity of the player in the repetition of these words, and the following scene where
Fanny

Fanny joins them, and where her application to Lord Ogleby, in behalf of one she loves, is misconstrued by them as an amorous address to his Lordship; this effect of character on the feelings of the audience caused a universal laugh, in which their Majesties heartily joined; and it was some time before Tom King (Lord Ogleby) was permitted to express his approbation of the fair object so recommended to his tenderness.

Mrs. Baddeley's looks upon this occasion were such as to have a very laughable effect, and she was next day honoured with a message from their Majesties, by Mr. Ramus, desiring her to go to Zophany's and be taken for her picture
in

in that attitude and situation; with which she complied, and from which a print was afterwards engraved.

This distinguishing mark of royal approbation extended her theatrical fame through every circle of fashionable and middling life, and she became carested, adored and followed by the first persons in the nation. Nothing that rank, fortune or influence could effect, was left untried to gain her favour and attention; and it required more than female resolution to withstand the variety of temptations that were thrown in her way.

Though before this event, and indeed before her separation from her husband, she

she had been noticed by his Royal Highness the late Duke of York, whose taste and vivacity led him to mix with the pleasures of the gay world and interest himself in the general affairs of life. He could not but admire such a performer as Mrs. Baddeley, where so much sensibility and beauty united, and he frequently honoured her with his visits, often alone, and often in company with Sir John Wriottesley. The anxiety evinced by his Highness on all occasions where Mrs. Baddeley was concerned, was a proof of his regard ; which was confirmed by his presenting her with a lock of his own hair previous to his leaving this kingdom. She kept this token of the Prince's esteem to her dying day,
and

and has bequeated it to one who carefully preserves it.

On taking leave of Mrs. Baddeley, his Highness regretted the necessity he lay under of being obliged, contrary to his inclinations, to leave England; nor was he very restrained in his reflections on the cause which occasioned it.

About twelve months after the Prince's departure, and near two years prior to her separation, Sir Cecil Bishop, (father to the present Lady Warren,) took some pains to engross Mrs. Baddeley's esteem; but finding age an obstacle, he tried the effect of presents. He purchased a service of plate, to the
amount

amount of about one hundred pounds in value, and sent it to her, with the following note.

“ Dear Mrs. Baddeley,

“ I have sent you a small service of
“ plate, which I beg your acceptance
“ of, and intend to do myself the honour
“ to take tea with you this evening, if
“ you are disengaged.

“ Your’s to command,

“ In every respect,

“ Cecil Bishop.”

“ Friday Morning,

“ Berkeley-Square.

The

The Baronet's present was accepted, and also his visit; (this also was before her separation;) and after some time finding the interruptions of the town too frequently disappoint the purposes he had in view, he proposed to her an excursion to his country seat, at Storrington, in Suffex. After much importunity on the part of the old gentleman, (then near fourscore years of age) Mrs. Baddeley consented to it; but he had little cause to rejoice in this change of situation, as her invincible obduracy to his solicitations continued till the evening, when she left him, and set off for Brighthelmstone.

When it is considered that the gay
world

world did not produce a character but what was an admirer of Mrs. Baddeley, it is not to be supposed that age and infirmity could rivet her attention and supplant every other impression; or that a retreat with such a person could afford sufficient inducement to fix a mind courted by all the gaieties and pleasures of the age.

This plate, when she parted from her husband, she took away with her and lodged in the hands of Mr. Teasdale, Haberdasher, in Tavistock-street; but it was afterwards returned. Mr. Teasdale was one who viewed her with the eyes of the best of her admirers, and could not resist gratifying his inclina-

tions at the expence of his interest. He was in partnership with a Mr. Squib, and Mrs. Baddeley being on their books to the amount of near two hundred pounds, for the payment of which, Squib becoming very importunate, Mr. Teasdale absolutely gave her the money to discharge this debt.

Mrs. Baddeley traversed the gay scenes of life with a heart disengaged from the trammels of love, notwithstanding all that artifice and ingenuity could devise, was employed to undermine her repose. Among all those who laboured to gain her affections, the honourable William Hanger, second son of the late Lord Coleraine, was most assiduous and indefatigable,

tigable, and at last succeeded; but as fate would have it, he soon lost the footing he had gained; for taking his brother one day to see her, he ungenerously supplanted him in her affections. This gentleman, the honourable John Hanger, on obtaining Mrs. Baddeley's heart, made her the most ample and unreserved promises of liberality, and pledged himself by the most solemn vows to give her all the support and protection his fortune or affection could afford or contrive. He took a handsome lodging in Dean-street, Soho, hired her a carriage at his own expence, and his assiduity and tenderness soon gained him her affection. In the enjoyment of his company she soon forgot that fortune was perverse,

and might unexpectedly overthrow her happiness. For a length of time her warmest wishes met a reciprocal return, and she experienced the most exalted enjoyment that could have sprung from such an intercourse. The zeal of her enamorado in promises of liberality out-stripped his abilities, for his circumscribed finances were no way adequate to realise the hopes he had taught Mrs. Baddeley to form. This inability, however, was far from abating her attachment to him; on the contrary, she eagerly grasped at the opportunity it gave her of proving the sincerity and disinterestedness of her affections, by expending the salary she received from Ranelagh and the Theatre, which amounted

mounted to twenty pounds a week, for their mutual expences in housekeeping.

She owed the large salary she received at Ranelagh to the partiality of Sir Thomas Robinson, who was an acting proprietor, and though a very old man, was solicitous for her favours. He took no small pains to convince her of his regard, but she was deaf to it all, and though he was frequent in his visits to her, made her a variety of small presents and offers suitable to his fortune, it would not do; she told him her heart was too far engaged to listen to his proposals, that she held herself under obligations to him in many respects, but that she could never think of receiving his visits in any other

light than that of a friend, and if he persisted in similar applications, she must absolutely decline seeing him any more.

In the mean time, the several tradesmen from whom Mrs. Baddeley had credit, and for the payment of whose demands Mr. Hanger had pledged himself, became importunate. The debts amounted to seven hundred pounds, among these was the coach-master's bill for the hired carriage he engaged. His finances were by no means in a state to answer these demands, though his domestic expences, from Mrs. Baddeley's contribution, were but trifling. Seeing his embarrassments, she proposed a retrenchment of expences, willing to submit

mit to any alternative, rather than lose him, or see him unhappy. This proof of her attachment was received with very cool civility. Mr. Hanger informed her that a knowledge of their connection had reached his father's ears, and met with his displeasure; that fearful of offending him and incurring debts he should not be able of himself to pay, he should be obliged to submit to his father's mandates, and acquiesce in the painful necessity of relinquishing the possession of an object he could not part from but with regret and unhappiness.

This declaration, to a woman who had not a thought or sentiment in her soul but was engrossed by the object of it,

it, harrowed up her feelings and suspended the vital current of life for some moments. She fell senseless to the floor, and it was with heartfelt labour that she recovered. Obduracy itself could not avoid waiting the issue of this transitory suspension without dread and horror. The unhappy dejected victim revived to gaze on the arbiter of her misery or happiness. She gazed and sighed, and gazed again. One would suppose that if gratitude was extinct in Mr. Hanger's heart, decency and good nature must have extorted from him some expressions of tenderness and concern. Whatever they were, they were not the effusions of that sympathetic ardor which animates the breast of love, but a repetition only of
what

what he before had said, concluding, that if his father did not precipitate him into a *forced* marriage, he would call to see her now and then, when he could escape observation.

He then proceeded to pack up such articles as belonged to him and lay in the apartments, consisting only of a small trunk of cloaths: whilst he was thus employed, Mrs. Baddeley conjured him by every tie of affection not to leave her, declaring she would submit to any vicissitude of fortune rather than be separated from him.

But all her intreaties were in vain; Mr. Hanger withdrew and left her for
condolence

condolence to her own reflections. The first step he took after his departure, was to call on the coach-master and inform him, that he should cease to be responsible to him for Mrs. Baddeley's carriage from that day, leaving her at the same time under the dreadful apprehension of being importuned for those debts contracted by them both. The hire of the coach was afterwards paid by me.

As soon as Mr. Hanger had left the house, Mrs. Baddeley called a hackney-chair, and ordered herself to be set down at an apothecary's in Dean-street, where she asked for three hundred drops of laudanum. The master of the shop scrupled selling such a quantity, till she informed

informed him who she was, adding, at the same time, that she was accustomed to take a dose of it every night, and as she was going into the country, she wished to take as much as would last till her return. The apothecary entertaining no doubt of her veracity, consented to let her have it. On her return home, she discharged the chair, went up to her chamber and swallowed the whole quantity. She then made her servant acquainted with what she had done, assuring her that her Gaby's treatment of her (for so she affectionately called Mr. Hanger) made her life insupportable, and as a short time must now terminate her existence, she enjoined her to bear him the tidings of her fate.

The

The maid, alarmed at what she heard, immediately called in the first medical assistance that could be had: Dr. Hayes, Sir John Eliot, and Dr. Turton, attended. These gentlemen found her labouring under the effects of the opium, and after several hours efforts, succeeded so far as to procure an intermission of her stupor. Her health suffered extremely from this rash step and the distraction of her mind, and at the end of six weeks she was scarce able to walk. Her recovery was slow; indeed it was never perfectly obtained; as through the remainder of her life she was afflicted with a bilious complaint that often disordered her, and made many of her days unhappy.

Bodily

Bodily indisposition was not the only difficulty Mrs. Baddeley had to encounter with. Poverty stared her in the face, her cloaths and other valuables, of which she was mistress, were before disposed of, to enable her to live with the man whom she loved beyond every other object. Whilst she flattered herself that a lasting and mutual affection bound their hearts, she never declined a resource to the pawnbroker, as long as she had any thing to pledge, and when he parted from her she owed thirty pounds to Mrs. Bell, of Dean-street, the person in whose house she lodged.

This was the period when I became connected with her, in the year 1769 :

I had been bred at the same school, and when we were children, we were always together. Our acquaintance was in some measure dropped after her marriage; but I no sooner heard of her distress than I paid her a visit, and, on a promise on her part to attend to her business, and give up all thoughts of a person from whom she experienced such unmerited treatment, I extricated her from every difficulty: I paid the greater part of her debts at that time, and the remainder afterwards. I took a house in St. James's Place, made it her home, and procured her a carriage. Set so much at her ease, she soon recovered her spirits, and was as chearful as before.

The

The present Lord Sefton, (when Lord Molineux) had been a constant admirer of Mrs. Baddeley, though Mr. Hanger's attachment to her precluded him from the hopes of gaining any ascendancy in her mind; his Lordship therefore, during their connection, discontinued his visits; but no sooner did he hear of Mr. Hanger's deserting her, than he availed himself of the opportunity and renewed his attentions. As my house in St. James's-place was not ready for Mrs. Baddeley's reception for a fortnight after I took it, his Lordship made her repeated offers of a settlement in the interim, if she would consent to accept of it. Her heart however being far from disengaged from the last

object that possessed it, and of course indifferent to any other, and his Lordship being married to a very amiable woman, Mrs. Baddeley rejected every proposal, and made his marriage a bar to any hopes he might entertain of success in what he solicited.

Yet not discouraged by repeated denials, he still persevered, and having learned the embarrassed situation of Mrs. Baddeley's affairs, from which she was relieved only by the humanity of a friend; his Lordship, as a preliminary, proposed to pay her debts and to settle on her four hundred pounds a year, and particularly told her that she might command instantly a thousand pounds to satisfy

tisfy her creditors. Embarrassed however as she was, she declined the proposal, which his Lordship still pressed, and he withdrew saying, he would wait for an answer till the next day, and hoped she would take that time to consider of it.

Mrs. Baddeley was not at that time dunned with importunate creditors, but yet she felt the obligation she lay under to me who had relieved her from their intrusions, and wished for an opportunity to repay me; at the same time, she was convinced that the motive of my liberality was a personal esteem for her, the loan being accompanied with an injunction to her to profit by what she had experienced, to preserve her heart

to herself, and look forward to that prospect of ease and indulgence which her profession and abilities would ensure her.

In this undecided state of mind, she advised with Mrs. Bell, the woman in whose house she still lodged in Dean-street, acquainting her with every particular of her present situation, and saying that her gratitude to me actuated her two different ways. She wished to indemnify me for my pecuniary favours, but that the offers made her, though they might enable her to accomplish that wish, were incompatible with the terms on which those favours were conferred; besides, the person who made
her

her these offers, being married to a very amiable and accomplished woman, to whom he was inconstant, it was a proof he was incapable of a lasting attachment; she therefore was of opinion, that let what misfortunes would happen, it would be idle to risk her future peace by a connection, of which the continuance was uncertain.

The person she consulted was of a different way of thinking; the settlement was an object of too much consequence to be rejected; it would outlive the constancy of the donor, and be a comfortable resource when age came on. Moreover, she remarked that Mrs. Baddeley ought to consider she was still not less in debt

debt to me, though not importuned; and it was natural to think that the money would be called for one day or other, when she might not have it in her power to repay me; but that if she accepted his Lordship's proposals, she would at all times command a sufficiency to discharge the obligations she lay under; in short the offer was a noble and a generous one, and too valuable to be over nice in the acceptance of. She ended with saying that self-interest ought to be her guide, and should Lord Molineux even not make her the settlement proposed, he certainly would give her an equivalent.

On the contrary, Mrs. Baddeley's mind was totally averse to forming any
future

future attachment ; nay she went so far as to say, she would rather face death than comply with Lord Moliueux's wishes. However, the good woman of the house having now obtained her confidence, took every opportunity of expatiating on her conduct, which she termed filly in the extreme ; and the earnestness with which she perpetually pursued the subject, had at last some weight with Mrs. Baddeley, who began now to give it a consideration. She enjoined her landlady however, not to communicate her sentiments to me, whose displeasure she feared to incur.

His Lordship came of course the next day and pressed for an answer, which
he

he received in the negative. But this did not abate his fervor; on the contrary, he launched out into the most soft and tender expressions, determining to try the force of eloquence. Resolved to take no denial, he met her repeated refusals with calmness, and flattered himself he should succeed by perseverance. He proposed sending for his attorney to draw up the settlement. This was not suffered. He then gave her his note of hand payable to her, one month after date, for 350*l.* and presented it to her, and left her, with saying he would return in the evening and bring his attorney with him. This note I took to Mr. Drummond, at Charing Cross, and he was polite enough to cash it in Mrs. Baddeley's name, who

who drew for it in small sums as she had occasion. His Lordship has taken some pains to contradict this, but Mr. Drummond's books will prove the truth of it.

He returned in the evening, but without his attorney, who would follow him, he said, in two hours. Finding Mrs. Baddeley very much dejected, he tenderly inquired the cause of it, and she candidly confessed that his Lordship's expressions brought to her remembrance the many endearing terms she had once heard from the lips of her dear Gaby, (now Lord Coleraine) whose impression she found it the greatest difficulty to erase from her heart. Whenever this subject occurred, she underwent, she said, a species
of

of distraction, and often indulged a profound melancholy in contemplating his picture which hung over the sofa, where they often sat, and passed hours in the full enjoyment of a reciprocity of affection. Her mind was now oppressed with the pungent recollection of that lost happiness she was once no stranger to; and the weight of it being too great for her to support in silence within herself, it ended itself in a flood of tears. His Lordship, on his knees, implored her to banish from her mind, objects which had so inimical an influence on her peace, and endeavour to attend to those which held out a more pleasing alternative, and which his love and affection should be strenuously employed to procure her.

She

She assured him the more he spoke in that style, the more she was affected, it exciting emotions and renewing those feelings for her Gaby, who was once so much her delight, that his even abandoning her to distress, could not eradicate from her breast. His Lordship might see from this, she said, that was she even prevailed upon to give him her person, she could not accompany it with her heart.

Whilst his Lordship was thus pleading for his passion, I came in to Mrs. Baddeley on a visit : this was in autumn 1769. Being informed she was at home, I went up stairs, but could gain no admission into the dining room, as the door

was fastened. Apprehensive that she might have recourse a second time to laudanum, as no answer was made to my call, and as the servant did not say any person was with her, I insisted on a man being sent for, to force the door. This menace alarmed his Lordship within, he opened the door suddenly, and rushed forth with such impetuosity, rushing by me as I waited for admittance, that we nearly escaped a fall down the stairs.

Seeing Mrs. Baddeley in tears, I inquired the cause, and also who the person was that acted with so much rudeness, telling her at the same time that her conduct did not appear consistent with her promises. After apologising for
the

the door being locked, which Mrs. Baddeley said she would explain, she recounted to me the particulars, as before related. Having heard her out, I remonstrated on the impropriety of her behaviour, and highly censured her for listening to any terms from Lord Molineux. She attended to me with patience, and acknowledged the justice of my suggestions, so as to determine her in a rejection of his Lordship's proposals for the present. Before I left her, Lord Molineux returned, attended by the dissector of his patrimony, his attorney, with the deeds of settlement. When the door was opened to him, Mrs. Baddeley was just entering from the garden; the woman of the house shewed his Lordship

into the parlour, where I and Mrs. Baddeley followed him. She there told him that as she had not the command of her affections, she was determined not to dispose of her person, and therefore hoped he would excuse her peremptorily declining the proposed settlement; alledging that her own peace, and the influence of her friend (alluding to me) whom he saw present, were objects of dearer concern to her than any consideration his Lordship had it in his power to offer. She thanked him for the favour he had been pleased to bestow on her the day before, and hoped that her present determination would be attributed to its true motive, not disrespect to his Lordship, but merely as she had stated it. Lord Moli-

Molineux in profound silence made her a low bow, and, on retiring, assured her, that in his opinion, the small matter which she was pleased to call a favour, was but an earnest of what he wished to do for her in future.

After this peremptory refusal on the part of Mrs. Baddeley, his Lordship seeing that future endeavours would be fruitless, desisted from making any further attempts. As his conduct therefore afterwards had no relation to Mrs. Baddeley, the reader will agree with me, that it should be relinquished for the present, to make room for one who filled a more interesting place among the train of her followers.

My house in St. James's Place being now ready for our reception, Mrs. Baddeley removed there, after giving an answer to several suitors who made her similar proposals to those made by Lord Molineux. Her rising merit at the Theatre entitling her to an advance of salary, the manager of Drury Lane added 6*l.* a week to her former eight, which, with the 12*l.* she received at Ranelagh, would have enabled her to keep an elegant carriage, with a proper set of servants, and make an appearance suitable to the same. She now solemnly promised to regulate her conduct according to the plan I laid down for her, and to sacrifice every temptation which love or gallantry might throw in her way, in order to prevent
the

the effects of future disappointments or embarrassments.

As soon as she was settled with me, Lord Pigot, who afterwards lost his life in the East Indies, paid her a visit. His Lordship being an elderly man, assumed all the gravity of a monitor, and in a very friendly way proffered Mrs. Baddeley his advice for the regulation of her future conduct, adding, that she might command all the service in his power, offered her as the result of pure esteem and friendship. Under this idea, his visits were daily, and the familiarity that subsisted between him and us, gave him such weight with us, that no one was admitted but such as he and I approved.

He

He presented Mrs. Baddeley with many tokens of his esteem, which I considered as testimonies of his friendship, seemingly increasing in its fervour daily; and his assiduity in bestowing his advice to the fair object of it, was, in my opinion, a farther test of its warmth. I could not, however, but observe at last, that he was not so well pleased when a third person was present, and when alone with Mrs. Baddeley, he would betray an unusual embarrassment, by those internal emotions, that were visible in his countenance. At length he took an opportunity, one day when he was alone with her, to say, that he felt more for her than mere friendship and esteem; that his sentiments were actuated by an attachment
of

of a more tender nature, and which he sought her to relieve by a reciprocal sensation; in fact, he declared his passion for her was not short of love.

Mrs. Baddeley, surprised at a declaration she so little expected, requested his Lordship might not deceive himself by indulging the least hope that he would ever gain that interest in her affections which could be favourable to his inclinations; but at the same time expressed the high value she set upon the honour of his friendship, which nothing could induce her to forfeit but his Lordship's perseverance in his present declarations.

At

At this very juncture Mrs. Baddeley's benefit being fixed on, Mr. Garrick sent her word of it. The messenger arrived just as tea was serving up, when Lord Pigot was present. His Lordship immediately engaged the first box, and presented Mrs. Baddeley with a hundred pounds on the occasion. And when the piece to be performed was generally known, numbers of persons who were denied admittance at our house before, came now to order tickets, and engaged boxes, places, &c. for Mrs. Baddeley's night.

Among these was a Mr. Franco, a Jew merchant, of Fenchurch-street, who engaged places for eight in one box, and

and very politely paid 50l. for the same. He then called for pen, ink, and paper, and wrote a long affecting epistle to Mrs. Baddeley, filled with professions of love, and enclosing a twenty-pound bank note, requesting the honour of her accepting it; and also intimating, that he would wait upon her at ten o'clock next morning. He came according to his appointment, and in attempting to rush into the parlour, where some company were at breakfast, without sending in his name, the footman took him by the shoulder, and, as he was a little man, pushed him into the street with ease, and shut the door upon him.

One may remark here, how apt servants are to catch the manners of those with whom they live, and that the old proverb, "Like master like man," is often verified. If they are in the service of quiet, orderly people, they will behave with decorum; if under characters of a reverse disposition, they will be insolent and overbearing. This man knew the errand on which Mr. Franco came, and sensible his visit would not be acceptable to his mistress, was ready enough to treat him with disrespect.

Sir Thomas Mills, and Mr. Mayne the banker, who came for tickets also, were of the party at breakfast with us; and on the discomfiture of the little
gentle-

gentleman, who was disappointed in his speculations, the whole company, who saw him reeled into the street, burst into an immoderate fit of laughter, which took some time before they were able to suppress it. The purchase of tickets was not the only occasion of the visit of these gentlemen, but an invitation to Sir Thomas Mills' to dinner, where some of the first people of distinction were that day to dine. The invitation was accepted; we were entertained with a concert, after which cards were introduced; which I mention, for the opportunity of saying, that as we played for ten guineas a game, Mrs. Baddeley won 300l. and I won 80l. This invitation

brought on many others, but without any material occurrence.

Mrs. Baddeley's benefit coming on, under the favourable circumstances of so many people of rank and distinction patronising her, all the boxes were engaged, and many of them at a price which seemed more like a magnificent present than a consideration for the seats. She was at this time engaged at Ranelagh, where Lord Palmerston saw her, and invited himself to tea, requesting to be admitted among the circle of her friends, and offering his service, where he could be of use to her. His Lordship was then one of the Lords of the Admiralty,

Admiralty, and Mrs. Baddeley, who was led on all occasions to do good where it was in her power, being desirous to serve a friend in the navy, availed herself of this offer, to get him promoted from the rank of lieutenant, to that of master and commander. His Lordship very politely replied, it would be conferring an obligation on himself; that the matter rested, indeed, with Lord Sandwich, but that he would speak to him on the subject. Lord Palmerston, blind, as many others are to their own imperfections, though he had an impediment in his speech, was very fond of reading to others, and requested permission of Mrs. Baddeley, to come occasionally and read to her. His

request was complied with, and being with her one evening for the purpose, he took up a volume of Shenstone's poems, in which Hamlet's soliloquy is thus travestied, "To print, or not to print? That is the question," His Lordship's difficulty in articulating the word *print* struck the company present, who were many, with different ideas, but they all burst into an involuntary fit of laughter. This so increased his Lordship's difficulty, that he was totally deprived of utterance, which occasioned so many extraordinary and singular distortions of his features, that kept up the laugh to such a degree of violence, as obliged us to withdraw for a moment's relaxation. His Lordship remained thus

thus convulsed for five minutes, and nothing would relieve him but a glass of water. Reading, for this evening, was of course suspended; he took what passed in good humour, and invited us to take chocolate with him next morning, when he hoped to give us an answer respecting his application to Lord Sandwich.

This request of Mrs. Baddeley's gave his Lordship an opportunity of recommending himself to her favour, and pursuing those views he had in contemplation, but which he was very awkward in communicating. His visits were frequent, but to little effect. One day Mrs. Baddeley was indulging her

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servants,

servants, in the Christmas holidays, with the amusements of a Camera Obscura, vulgarly called the Gallanty Show, which men carry about the streets in order to gain a livelihood. The exhibition was to be in the parlour, of course the room was darkened, and a large sheet fastened up against the wall.— Lord March, now Duke of Queensberry, at this instant rapped at the door, to whom we were denied; but, Lord Palmerston, who came just after, though the footman said we were not at home, hearing a laugh in the parlour, pushed forward; but, before he opened the door, we had even extinguished the light in the man's lanthorn, so as to be totally in the dark, that we might not be seen.

seen. This did not interrupt his Lordship; he came bolt in, tumbled right over the box and the barrel organ, which he overset, and fell all along upon the floor. His Lordship, having broke his shins, cried out vociferously; and having destroyed the show-box, the owner lamented his misfortune with "Oh, mon Dieu! — Me be ruined! — Ma machine est cassé!" — Lights were brought in, and the ridiculous scene that presented itself to his Lordship, who was quite at a loss to know the cause of his disaster, added to his embarrassment. He good-naturedly, however, requested that no apologies might be made, alledging that the fault was his; gave the man two guineas for the injury he had sustained,

sustained, and finding us desirous of retiring, very politely took his leave and withdrew.

Next morning Lord March called again, with a design to invite us to dinner. He was shewn into the parlour, but observing a maid servant going up the stairs, he pursued her, and treating her with a degree of freedom which she thought rude and unbecoming, the girl turned about and pushed him down the whole flight. Not satisfied with this, she wreaked her vengeance by throwing after him the contents of a pail she had in her hand, which fell upon his Lordship's cloaths and ribband; for he has the Order of the Thistle. The
noise

noise alarmed us; we ran out to see what was the matter, and beheld his Lordship, with all the appendages of his person, in a situation truly laughable and ridiculous. We called our servants however, to disengage him from the effects of this disaster, and prevent him from the necessity of sending home for other cloaths.

Matters being accommodated by the concurrence of his Lordship's good temper, and the endeavours of the family, he prevailed on us to dine with him that day, and prior to dinner, to take an airing in Hyde Park, where he promised to meet and accompany us.

Whilst

Whilst we were airing in the Park, a gentleman presented a letter to Mrs. Baddeley, saying, as he was commissioned to deliver it himself, he followed her to Hyde Park, having learned from her servants, in St. James's Place, that he would find her there. The letter was from his Grace the Duke of Northumberland, and the contents of it are as follow :

“ Dear Madam,

“ Your person and charms have
“ so far attracted my adoration, that I
“ solicit the honour of being permitted
“ to pay you a visit to tea this evening;
“ the

“ the honour of your answer, with com-
“ pliance, will ever be esteemed by,

“ Dear Madam,

“ Your constant admirer,

“ Northumberland.”

“ *Northumberland House,*

“ *Friday Morning.*”

Mrs. Baddeley returned a verbal answer to this effect, that “ A prior engagement precluded her the honour
“ intended by his Grace; otherwise,
“ among the rest of her friends, his
“ Grace’s company would be acceptable.”

On our return from Lord March’s
after dinner, we found Mr. John Hanger

ger waiting for us. On being told this, Mrs. Baddeley went up stairs, and I went into the parlour to him. He made an apology for the liberty he had taken in waiting on us, and flattered himself he should be pardoned for his intrusion, if he was permitted to explain. I told him no explanation could atone for his behaviour to Mrs. Baddeley: she had nearly forgot his ill treatment of her, and wished not to renew the recollection of it. He begged permission to see her, and on being refused, his eyes, departing from the steadiness of manhood, played the woman; in short, he cried much, repeatedly exclaiming that he was a miserable and wretched man; that his life was a burden to him; that
he

he was a stranger to rest both day and night, and was determined, if Mrs. Baddeley would not be reconciled to him, that he would put an end to his existence. Mrs. Baddeley, who listened at the door, could no longer resist her inclinations to speak to him herself. She came into the parlour, and told him, in becoming terms, that of all men in the world he had the least right to give her this trouble; and wondered, after his treatment of her, how he could presume to come where she was, more particularly into the house of her friend, to whom she was indebted for relief, when he abandoned her to distress. After deserting her, as an object unworthy of his care, attention, or notice,

she was at a loss to know why he should alter his sentiments now, unless it was to have it in his power to act the same cruel scene over again, and have a future opportunity of laughing at her credulity, and the success of his own artifice. He wept bitterly at this reproach, begged and prayed to be heard; fell on his knees, and uttered the most fervent expressions of contrition for the impropriety of his conduct. His perseverance at last produced some emotions in Mrs. Baddeley, which her sensibility was not able to suppress, and her firmness gave way. He protested and vowed that he would study to atone for his past conduct, and solicited that, if she would not receive him

him on other terms, she would permit him to visit her as a *friend* only, and give him leave occasionally to inquire how she did. His arguments prevailing, they continued together for several hours; which time was spent in tears on both sides. He, in the end, attained her permission to visit her as a friend; and, so far re-introduced, he haunted the house eternally, and attended at every rehearsal and play where she was present. And this attention, I am persuaded, was more the effect of pride than affection: for the notice of Mrs. Baddeley was at that day sufficient to give credit and *éclat* to a man of the *ton*. This was one reason, among others, that induced men of the first

rank and character to court her company as they did.

The interest which Mrs. Baddeley had in her Gaby's happiness, had not wholly ceased. Her love for him began to revive; and though for a time she struggled to suppress the influence of her affections in his favour, yet the latent spark soon glowed again, and Mr. Hanger became re-possessed of that ascendancy which he was accustomed to have in her thoughts and esteem.

During the progress of this her relapse to wretchedness, I used every argument experience and propriety could suggest to me, to save Mrs. Baddeley
from

from her impending fate, and prevent her falling a sacrifice to the artifices of a man who was capable of acting as Mr. Hanger had: but my remonstrances were ineffectual; for though Mrs. Baddeley made some efforts, at my instigation, to reject him, yet her easy and credulous heart was too much wrapped up in him, to consult her own happiness.

Seeing no other mode of estranging her from Mr. Hanger, I availed myself of the house being mine, having defrayed every expence attending it, and assured Mrs. Baddeley that I would not suffer my esteem for her to become subservient to the abuse and perversion

of my friendly intentions, and therefore asserted my right of insisting that Mr. Hanger's visits should be discontinued there.

Embarrassed and perplexed between the contending passions of love and friendship, Mrs. Baddeley was undetermined. During this time, a volume of letters passed between them.

Whilst Mrs. Baddeley's resolution was thus fluctuating between gratitude and folly, or rather a tender and undisguised passion, Lord Melbourne took every opportunity to come forward and prove himself one of her admirers. This gentleman was about twenty-one years of age,

age, and had been married about ten months to a very amiable woman. For a length of time he used every means to engage her attention at Ranelagh; but finding that an improper place for an interview, at least such a one as he wished, he applied to a friend, in confidence, to make her, in his name, an offer of share of his fortune, in exchange for the possession of her heart. This friend brought her a letter, inclosing a bill for 300l. which he very politely pressed her acceptance of, as a *bagatelle*, and to consider it only as a proof of his esteem, and that liberality which his affection for her would study to convince her of. Mrs. Baddeley did not refuse the present; but, knowing that

that his Lordship was married to a lady of great personal and acquired accomplishments, who merited all his love and attention, she recommended it to him to pay that regard to his domestic happiness, which the partner of it had every title to, and give over any thoughts of expecting success with her, whose state of mind and disposition put it out of her power to meet his Lordship's wishes.

This answer had no effect with him; his passion was rather increased than abated, and his liberality kept pace with it. During this time, Mr. Hanger became so troublesome, notwithstanding all my urging Mrs. Baddeley to discourage him, that I came to a resolution
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to quit St. James's Place, and leave her to follow her own inclinations. This I partly did, by taking a house in the King's Road, Chelsea. At this she became almost inconsolable, protested she was not able to bear a separation from me, and, on condition that I would not think of it, offered to conform to my wishes; adding, that whatever prosperous situation she might be in, she would share what she had with me, as she was indebted to me for her happiness; and her life, without my esteem and company, would be intolerable. In a word, she faithfully promised to relinquish every thought of Mr. Hanger, or any other person of whom I did not approve.

One

One day, however, when I was absent from my new house, Lord Melbourne got admittance in St. James's Place, to drink tea with her. On my return, I found them together. She came out to me; and, on my remonstrating with her on the impropriety of her encouraging any gentleman's visits, his Lordship, who overheard me, and fearing an attack upon him personally, threw up the parlour window, and precipitately leaped out. Being too much in a hurry to take sufficient precaution about a safe landing-place, he fell down the area; however, receiving no material hurt, he scrambled up again, and took to his heels. His Lordship, however, as an atonement for his intrusion,

left

left bank-notes on the parlour table to the amount of two hundred pounds.

Next morning his Lordship sent a letter, which will be found at the end of this volume, apologizing for his precipitate retreat, and requesting an interview in Henry the VIIth's chapel, in Westminster Abbey, as he had something of importance to communicate. Mrs. Baddeley consulted with me on this occasion, and my advice was, to take no notice of the letter; but she was rather resolute, saying she was anxious to hear what he had to communicate, particularly as it could be attended with no harm in so public a place. Finding her determined to go, I told her I would accom-

accompany her, and remonstrate with his Lordship on the impropriety of his conduct. The coach was ordered: we set out; and Lord Melbourne received us in the poets corner. We viewed the wax-work, and walked round the inner part of the Abbey several times. At last his Lordship requested Mrs. Baddeley's private ear for three minutes; which she refused, on the plea of my not permitting it. I then took an opportunity of representing to his Lordship the impropriety of his visits: he replied, they were of the most friendly nature, and had nothing for their object, but a wish to be of service to her, and to have the occasional enjoyment of her company among her other friends. "Even admitting, my Lord," says I, "that

“ that your visits are no other than
“ friendly, it is incumbent on your
“ Lordship to refrain from them, that
“ you may not give pain to that amiable
“ woman your Lady.” He said, his respect and affection for his Lady were fixed and immoveable; and he would not, on any account, attempt to hurt her peace of mind; it was far from his intentions: but as to denying his visits to Mrs. Baddeley, it was to no purpose; he must and would see her, even at the risque of his life. He had the highest regard for her, lamented the fatigues to which her profession exposed her; and should be happy to enable her to quit that profession, by empowering her to live in an easier sphere of life, than either a Theatre,

Ranelagh, or any public place of entertainment, would admit of.

Mrs. Baddeley, whose inclination led her to quit the fatigues of a public life, listened to his Lordship's proposal, and encouraged him to repeat his entreaties to me, who showed some displeasure on the occasion. An altercation then succeeded between me and his Lordship, on the leads of the Abbey, for some time uninterrupted; for there he dragged us as the most retired place. He declared that he felt himself so much obliged to Mrs. Baddeley for her goodness in listening to what he had to offer, and on the reliance she put on his sincerity, that he would spend his whole fortune, if necessary,

fary, to defend and protect her; and turning to her, presented her with notes, to the amount of three hundred pounds. In a word, I was in some measure prevailed with, and his Lordship's visits were permitted at our house.

These unexpected sums of money served only to encourage Mrs. Baddeley's extravagance; for, though she had many good qualities, she had a natural turn for spending money profusely. Having almost the command of his Lordship's purse, she began to launch out into expences she had restrained before. She went to Mr. Tomkins the Jeweller, in Maiden-Lane, Covent-Garden, and purchased a pair of diamond

ear-rings, ten diamond pins at twenty pounds each, nine rings, with plate, &c. &c. to the amount of nine hundred and twenty pounds. Mr. Tomkins had a diamond necklace, which he valued at four hundred and fifty pounds: this Mrs. Baddeley set her mind on being mistress of also, though she had not money to pay for it. He consented, however, to let her have it, if I would give him my note for the money. With many entreaties she prevailed on me to do it; I gave him my note, and it was paid when it became due.

On Lord Melbourne's next visit to Mrs. Baddeley, he praised the elegance and magnificence of the necklace, which he observed was not essential to add to the

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the beauty of the wearer. He thought it a cheap purchase, saying, having laid out his wife's whole fortune to the amount of thirty thousand pounds on the day of marriage, he must be some little judge of the value of diamonds.

Mr. Hanger, who still continued his visits, was one day told that they could not be received in future: at this he was almost in a fit of desperation, and said he was surely supplanted by some rival: after running on in this strain for some time, he informed us that he was a ruined man, for that a run of ill luck at Almack's, the night before, had stripped him of all his cash. Mrs. Baddeley felt for him, and, notwithstanding her determi-

nation not to see him, gave him some bank notes to the amount of two hundred pounds and upwards, for which he thanked her, but never repaid her.

Lord Melbourne, at his next visit, brought me my promissory note of hand, for four hundred and fifty pounds, which I had given to Mr. Tomkins, he having called on the Jeweller, and paid the money for it. He also requested Mrs. Baddeley would make him acquainted with what she might fancy in that way, and he would take care she should have it. As he came now purposely to bring me my note, he excused himself for leaving us with so much abruptness, being in haste, he said, to attend his dear Bessy to the

the play, (this being the name by which he always called his wife) but that he would see us again the next day, when he hoped to find his amiable Mrs. Baddeley well.

Mrs. Baddeley, on receiving these favours at his Lordship's hands, expressed the highest sense of gratitude and esteem for his noble and liberal conduct to her, professing herself more indebted to his bounty than to any man living.

His Lordship having paid us a visit at Chelsea; after admiring the taste and elegance of the house and furniture, remarked that the situation was favourable to prevent his being noticed, whenever he was disposed to wait on us. He
pro-

proposed to Mrs. Baddeley to ride out daily for the good of her health, bought her a cream-coloured mare, which cost him sixty pounds, and presented me with a fine hunter which cost him fifty pounds.

We were next honoured with a visit from the Right Honourable Charles James Fox; but, as the professions he made, were neither desirable nor acceptable, he was very coolly received. He took offence at it, and his resentment for Mrs. Baddeley's behaviour shall not pass unnoticed.

Mrs. Baddeley now paid all due attention to her professional engagements: whenever she passed through the room
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at Ranelagh, she attracted the notice of every eye, and the admiration of every tongue; but this excess of praise, though it might flatter the pride and vanity of any woman, did not affect her so as to occasion any inattention in her to that propriety of conduct which good-breeding dictates. Lord Melbourne, and his Grace of Ancaſter, the husband of the preſent Duchefs, were among the foremoſt who contended for her notice. The Duke's application met with a repulſe, which he did not ſeem to like; for, on making his propoſals, and begging her to conſider of them by the next day, ſhe very laconically told him ſhe ſhould not.

One evening, when we were drinking tea in the great room at Ranelagh, poor Gaby came up, and begged a dish with us, more from ostentation than any other motive, that he might convince the town he was still in Mrs. Baddeley's good graces. She prudently, however, refused to countenance him in so public a place, and requested he would leave us, which with some reluctance he did.

Lord Melbourne, who was there the same evening and observed Mr. Hanger with us, noticed it with displeasure, but had no opportunity of expressing his sentiments at that place ; but on our return home, we found his Lordship there before

fore us. He told Mrs. Baddeley he had her interest too much at heart, not to acquaint her that Mr. Hanger's attention to her was noticed by all her friends; that it made him wretched, to see a man, who had treated her with such ingratitude, accost her, and reasoned very properly on her submitting to hear any thing from him. Mrs. Baddeley declared that she had not the least partiality for him, and was determined for the future to treat him as his behaviour deserved. This declaration appeased his Lordship; and he promised, upon his honour, that if she would give up this man, who had endangered her life by his ingratitude and cruelty, he would continue to be her benefactor and friend through life.

I joined in this part of his Lordship's sentiments, and promised he should neither be received, nor countenanced in my house; nor, if I could help it, where Mrs. Baddeley was. His Lordship then took his leave, and, saying Mrs. Baddeley must be in want of cash, left on the table two hundred pounds.

Lord Melbourne's liberality was not only noble in itself, but his manner of conferring a favour ever enhanced its value. Mrs. Baddeley could not but esteem so generous a friend, nor could I avoid uniting in his sentiments. The terms on which his Lordship bestowed all these favours, did honour to his disinterestedness.

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On the receipt of this money, Mrs. Baddeley began to consider how she should lay it out. The carriage was ordered next morning, to take her to a rehearsal at the Theatre; but in the way she called at Mr. King's, the mercer, in King-street, Covent-Garden, and purchased silk to the amount of one hundred and twenty pounds, which she instantly paid for. We then proceeded to the green-room, where Mr. Baddeley desired to speak with me. He informed me he had passed the bond his wife had given him, to a Mr. Freeman, a woollen-draper, in Gracechurch-street, and that the first payment of eighty pounds was due upon it. I told him I would call and pay it, which I did the next day.

This was part of Mr. Baddeley's debts, which his wife bound herself to pay on their separation, as I before mentioned.

On our return home, we found that Lord Milton's son, Mr. John Damer, had called and left a note, the purport of which was relative to a report he had heard at Almack's the night before, and that he would wait on us the next day at twelve. Lord Palmerston also called the same evening, to acquaint us with his non-success with Lord Sandwich, in his application for Mrs. Baddeley's friend; for which he expressed himself truly sorry. His Lordship proposed reading to us again, and took up a volume of Doddsley's Poems for that purpose;

pose; but, recollecting the circumstances attending his last performance in that way, I smiled, and Mrs. Baddeley did the same. His Lordship, little conceiving what we smiled at, expressed a wish to know it, that he might join us in our mirth. This, however, put the reading off; and after supper he took his leave.

The next morning Dr. Arne called on us, to instruct Mrs. Baddeley in a new piece that was shortly to be performed. After some time the conversation turned on a famous female fortune-teller, who was deaf and dumb, but who wrote the fortune of any person, during the time she was conversing with them. Lord Palmerston, who came in, in the interim,

wished to be one of the party to go and consult her. Dr. Arne's lessons were of course deferred, the coach was ordered, and Dr. Arne and his Lordship accompanied us to Leman-street, Goodman's-Fields, to hear what this good prophetess would have to say. When we came to her house, we found a well-dressed woman, apparently deaf and dumb, who wrote on a slate that her fee was half-a-guinea each, and requested to know which of us was first desirous of learning our fortune. I was conducted forward; and this fortune-teller surprised us much. She mentioned several things which had occurred in the course of my life, and we therefore expected she could tell what was to come. In speaking of
Mrs.

Mrs. Baddeley, she said her father would shortly die, and her prediction was fulfilled; for he died at Windsor, a few days afterwards, and was interred at St. Margaret's, Westminster, at her expence: his funeral cost her 40l. It is but justice to the sensibility and feelings of Mrs. Baddeley, in this place, to say, that she ever showed the highest affection and attention to her parents, and from this time gave her mother three guineas a week during her life. I must also mention here another instance of her filial affection. Her father was, as I have said before, Serjeant-trumpeter to the King, and being once pushed hard for money, he had no resource to raise it, but by applying to a pawnbroker, in the Strand,

and pledging the appendages of his office, viz. his silver collar of SS. a silver mace, and three silver trumpets. Receiving any thing in pawn belonging to his Majesty, is illegal, and attended with a penalty; but the person to whom the application was made, being personally acquainted with Mr. Snow, consented to take these articles for the loan of the sum he wanted. Mr. Snow was some time afterwards called upon to attend in his place at Windsor, during an installation, and he was then unable to redeem his regalia. He applied to the pawnbroker, to indulge him with the use of them for that day, offering him a premium for the same, and also to pay the expence of a person to come
and

and attend the installation, to whom the property should be returned, as soon as the ceremony was over ; but he could not succeed, nor would the pawn-broker's humanity step forth upon this occasion, though the poor man's bread and character were at stake. In this situation, he could only have recourse to his daughter, who then lived in Dean-street ; and it happened at that period when she was herself in the greatest distress, when she was impoverished, and sick, and abandoned to want, as I have related it, by the desertion of Mr. Hanger. At this time I had relieved her from her difficulties ; and, being made acquainted with Mr. Snow's embarrassment, I enabled her

to

to relieve him also; and I must say that, on this occasion, she expressed a greater sensibility of gratitude to me than at any other time when I endeavoured to be of use to her.—But to resume my narrative.

On our return from the Fortune-teller's, we found Mr. Damer waiting for us. He wished to communicate the substance of a report which Gaby had circulated, of the preference he still held in Mrs. Baddeley's favour, and that all endeavours to supplant him there were ineffectual; that the ascendancy he had over her insured him a permanence of her attachment, which no temptation could alienate; that she re-
jected

jected every proposal made to her by others, and that his dictates were the sole guide of her actions; that Lord Melbourne had been trying what he could do; but that, on his approach, he leaped out of the parlour-window; and he wished the circumstance was as public as it was notorious. Mr. Damer said he could not be privy to expressions so injurious to Mrs. Baddeley's character, consistent with the respect he had for her, without making her acquainted with it. This matter came afterwards to Lord Melbourne's ear; the result of which shall be mentioned hereafter.

Soon after the death of her father,
Mrs. Baddeley applied by letter to Lord
Hertford,

Hertford, then Lord Chamberlain, in behalf of her mother, who was left a widow, in the most distressed circumstances; and begged leave to wait on his Lordship, to explain herself more fully. His Lordship returned an answer in his own hand-writing, of which the following is a copy.

“ Lord Hertford’s compliments to
“ Mrs. Baddeley, is extremely sorry to
“ hear of the death of her father; will
“ be happy to see Mrs. Baddeley to-
“ morrow morning, in Grosvenor-street,
“ to receive her communications. If
“ he can be of service to the widow,
“ she may command him.

“ *Grosvenor-street.*”

We

We waited on his Lordship next morning, and were politely received. Mrs. Baddeley represented the destitute state of her mother, since her father's death, in very affecting terms, till tears stopped her utterance. I then mentioned the particulars of her situation, and urged every matter that I thought would have weight, in her behalf. Lord Hertford paid particular attention, called for chocolate, and promised to devise something for the advantage of Mrs. Snow. Soon after, he sent Mrs. Baddeley word, that a trumpeter's place was vacant, and if Mrs. Snow could procure any one to perform the duties of it, the emoluments should be hers. We told his Lordship, that we believed

Mr.

Mr. Yates, the dancing-master, would undertake it; but, on asking him the question, he replied, he should be glad to purchase the place, but as to performing the duty for another, he could not think of it. An agreement, therefore, was made between him and Mrs. Baddeley, for the purchase; and he agreed to give her four hundred pounds on the appointment. She then wrote to Lord Hertford, as follows:

“ My Lord,

“ Mr. Yates has agreed to perform
“ the duty of the employment, in fa-
“ vour of my mother; I request, there-
“ fore, your Lordship will please to
“ appoint

“ appoint him, agreeable to your kind

“ promises; and I remain, with thanks,

“ My Lord,

“ Your respectful, obliged

“ humble servant,

“ Sophia Baddeley.”

To which she received a polite answer, with a promise of compliance. Mr. Yates's name was immediately entered on Lord Hertford's list; and, on receiving his warrant, he paid the four hundred pounds to Mrs. Snow.

The Serjeant-trumpeter's place being not yet disposed of, Mrs. Baddeley made an attempt to procure it for her brother,

who was then a trumpeter to the household; but, as she had so lately troubled Lord Hertford, she did not think proper to apply to him again, particularly as he had refused Mr. Snow, who applied for it as an hereditary right: she determined therefore to apply to the Duke of Gloucester in his behalf, and wrote him the following letter:

“ Mrs. Baddeley presents her respectful compliments to his Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, begging the honour of an interview, having something of consequence to communicate.

“ *Grafton-street,*
“ *Tuesday morning.*”

This

This letter was taken by her footman, and delivered to Mr. Adams, one of his Highness's pages, the Duke being not at home; and Mr. Adams sent his compliments back to Mrs. Baddeley, saying she might rely upon its being delivered. At five o'clock the same afternoon, Mr. Adams waited on her, and told her that he had delivered her letter to his Royal Highness, who would have written an answer, but was then going to dinner; however, he returned his respectful compliments, and would be glad to see her at Gloucester-house, next morning, at eleven. "I shall be
 "in waiting," said Mr. Adams "and,
 "if you will please to inquire for me,
 "I will introduce you." Accordingly

we dressed ourselves in the best manner (for she begged me to go with her), and, when we reached Gloucester-house, we inquired for Mr. Adams, who handed us from the carriage, and showed us into an elegant apartment, where we waited till his Highness was made acquainted with our being there. We were then conducted to him; and he handed Mrs. Baddeley a chair to sit down. She begged his Royal Highness's pardon for the liberty she had taken, but, having a great favour to ask, in which no time could be lost, she was the more desirous of seeing him herself. The Duke replied, that he thought himself honoured by her visit; and there was no favour she could ask,
in

in his power to grant, that she might not then command. She then acquainted him with her father's death, and of the place he held, and the great wish she had that her brother should succeed him; and, on his inquiring how he could serve her in this matter, she said, by speaking a word either to Lord Hertford, or his Majesty. His Highness replied, that, was the place in his disposal, it should be at her command; but, as he made it a point, and had ever done so, not to ask a favour of his brother, nor of any placeman under him, he was sorry it was not in his power to oblige her; but that, if there should be any vacancy in his own establishment, either in his band, or household, that would be acceptable, she

might depend on it he would himself, on any application of hers, provide for her brother, or her friend.—Chocolate was then brought; and his Highness was pleased to say, the stage had sustained a great loss in her, and he hoped she would return to the theatre, to gratify her friends. She replied, that she did not ever intend it. Some few words further passed: she thanked his Royal Highness for his obliging offers, and polite condescension; and took her leave. He conducted her himself through the apartments, then made his bow; and Mr. Adams handed her to her coach.

The day after we had received Mr. Damer's information, respecting Mr. Hanger,

Hanger, Mrs. Baddeley received the following letter from Lord Melbourne.

“ My dearest Love,

“ I shall do myself the pleasure
“ of calling on you this evening, on my
“ return from the play, where I am to
“ accompany my dear Betsy ; I shall not
“ stay out the entertainment ; beg you
“ will be at home, having something to
“ communicate very particular to you,
“ and remain

“ Yours ever,

“ Melbourne.”

In the evening he came according to appointment ; and the design of his visit was nothing less than an injunction to
us,

us, not to admit of Mr. Hanger's visits; saying, he had been informed at Almack's that Mr. Hanger had taken the liberty of mentioning his name in a manner he had no right to do; for which, at a future day, he should call him to an account. I assured his Lordship his injunctions were unnecessary, as I was determined he should neither have countenance, nor admittance into my house: convinced that Mrs. Baddeley had suffered enough through him already, I was resolved, if possible, to prevent the same thing happening again. At this Lord Melbourne expressed himself satisfied and happy.

Mrs. Baddeley had now a new part to study for the Theatre, and was expected

pected to be ready for it in the course of five days. This kept her at home for a few days; but the first time she went out, in her way to the Theatre, she called at Mr. Price's, haberdasher, in Tavistock-street, paid a bill of seventy pounds, for ribbands, gauzes, &c. &c. and laid out forty pounds more. Amid all the extravagancies, however, that she was guilty of, she never withheld her mite from the distresses of the unfortunate. Her dress was often the admiration of the green-room (a place where the players at the Theatre assemble behind the curtain); and, when she found any part of it would be acceptable to the admirer, she frequently made an offer of it, and it changed owners.

owners. It is not exaggeration to say, that she was the idol of the performers, who, either through sincerity or lucrative motives, paid her all the attention possible; and it may be truly said, there was not a single person belonging to the Theatre, from the highest performer to the lowest, but experienced her liberality, as even Mrs. Barry herself must allow. This spirit she carried to excess. Mrs. Hopkins, of Drury-lane theatre, paid her a visit one morning while she was dressing, and admiring a set of silver fillagree boxes that ornamented her toilette, Mrs. Baddeley presented her with as many as filled her pockets; and she carried them home with her.

At

At this time the Stratford Jubilee had a run at Drury-lane; and Miss Radley, who played with Mrs. Baddeley in that piece, so far ingratiated herself with her, that she gave her all the jewels she wore, before she purchased her new set; and these could not amount to less than a hundred pounds. She gave Miss Radley also money and other valuables. Sundry other acts of a similar kind did she perform, in behalf of the comedians of the Theatre to which she belonged: in short, she had no bounds to extravagance in dress; and, let what she purchased be ever so costly, before she had worn it three or four times she would give it to her maid-servant.

The

The general satisfaction Mrs. Baddeley gave in every part she undertook, intitled her, as she thought, to an increase of salary; and she made an application to Mr. Garrick for that purpose; but he refused it, and sent Mr. Wallis, his attorney, to tell her so. This so angered her, that she declared she would not appear upon the stage again till he complied with her request. Lord Melbourne came in at this instant, and she made him acquainted with the circumstance. His Lordship, taking advantage of this determination of hers, said all he could to keep her up to it; assuring her, she might rely upon him for protection, as he wished to relieve her from the fatigues of a theatrical life,

life, and saying he would put her in possession of three times more than she earned by her profession. She urged many objections to this plan, but his Lordship used every argument to remove them. Mrs. Baddeley, however, being incensed at Mr. Garrick, listened to Lord Melbourne's proposals, and was inclined to accept them. She determined, therefore, to break off with Mr. Garrick, and actually retired from the stage for two years. This was also the last season of her singing at Ranelagh.

Having now more time upon her hands, she had a greater opportunity of indulging herself in pleasure. Her usual

extravagance was not abated by the loss of her salary; but, on the contrary, she launched out into the pursuit of every gratification which ingenuity and invention could devise.

Mrs. Baddeley, now quitting the line of that profession, which was the condition on which I consented to remain with her; I quitted the house at Chelsea, and hired another in Grafton-street, Bond-street, with a view of letting it out in lodgings. Mr. Gray was the landlord, and the rent two hundred pounds a year. This done, I acquainted Mrs. Baddeley with it; and she was so affected at the information, as to burst into a flood of tears, and entreated me

me not to leave her, protesting that life would be insupportable without me. Lord Melbourne came in at this juncture, and seeing Mrs. Baddeley in tears, inquired the cause of it; and being told, he used every argument in his power to dissuade me from the measure; saying, he had a matter to propose, which he hoped would not prove unacceptable: this was, to pay me every shilling Mrs. Baddeley owed me, and to take the rent of Grafton-street house upon himself, on condition I would permit her to remain with me as before. He disliked the house at Chelsea, thought it far from a safe retreat, and was anxious to have us out of it. Mrs. Baddeley joined in these entreaties, ex-

erting all the influence she was sensible she had with me ; and I was prevailed on to acquiesce.

His Lordship now presented Mrs. Baddeley with bank-notes, to the amount of two hundred pounds, in lieu of the salary she had given up ; but he omitted to discharge the debt due to me, as he promised. However, his liberality was by no means to be brought in question, as he acted in every other instance with generosity, and a due regard to his word.

Lord Melbourne was not the brightest man of the age, as his letters sent to Mrs. Baddeley at times will show ; and
he

he is one among many of the fashionable men of the age, who are acquainted neither with good grammar, nor orthography. See one or two of his letters at the end of this volume.

We removed into Grafton-street; and Mrs. Baddeley, even in this change of circumstances, escaped the tongue of slander. The multitude of her admirers, vying with each other to gain her esteem, left her but little leisure to regret her want of employ. Their offers were great, but made to no purpose; she turning a deaf ear to every one but him to whom her faith was pledged. The presents she received were of no small

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value;

value; of course she had no reason to regret the being out of public employ.

The Duke of Northumberland, not satisfied with the answer Mrs. Baddeley returned to his letter, brought her into Hyde Park; sent his secretary with a note, requesting he might be indulged with leave to wait on her. His request was complied with, and his Grace drank tea with us. At this visit he told Mrs. Baddeley, that he was actuated by an impression which all his resolution was not able to resist; and that her affections were such an object to him, that on condition she would accept of his patronage and protection, he would discharge every debt she owed, present her
with

with a thousand guineas as an earnest of his esteem, and settle on her an annuity of five hundred pounds a year. To this proposal I instantly replied, that if his Grace's whole fortune was to be added to what he now offered, Mrs. Baddeley could not accept it. This perplexed the Duke at first; but, soon recovering himself, he began to expostulate, and said, as his secrecy might be relied on in this matter, no one could, or should be acquainted with a tittle of it. He spent upwards of three hours with us, labouring to obtain a favourable turn in Mrs. Baddeley's sentiments, but to no purpose. He said, however, on taking leave, that he should not consider this as a denial, but
would,

would, with her leave, persevere in his application; hoping, at last, to make some favourable impression on her heart.

During his Grace's visit, Lord Melbourne called, and finding company, left word he would call again the next day. Lord Grosvenor also called, and left his name, saying he would take another opportunity to pay his respects to her; as did also the Honourable Robert Conway, son to Lord Hertford, and left his compliments. Lord March (now Duke of Queensberry) also called, and on being told we were indisposed, and could not see company, sent in word that he had something of importance

tance to communicate. He was on this shown up stairs; and this matter of importance turned out only to be an invitation to dine with him the next day, which we accepted.

On Lord March's leaving us, the carriage was ordered; and we went to King's, the mercer, in King-street, Covent-garden, who was not sparing in showing the most costly and extravagant silks to tempt Mrs. Baddeley's fancy; and I will take this opportunity to observe, that persons in trade, who can have access to women in the situation Mrs. Baddeley was then in, are not wanting in industry to study for opportunities of laying before them a variety

riety of pleasing and fashionable articles, and will give them credit to any amount. Mrs. Baddeley, at this time, could have almost had what credit she pleased, but paid well in price for this indulgence; whereas, she was no sooner looked cool upon by her friends, than these tradesmen became very importunate, and even insolent. I don't say this was the case with Mr. King, for she seldom was in his debt. She laid out with him this morning, and paid him, two hundred pounds, for a new coach lining, hammer-cloth, with sundry filks at two guineas a yard. On setting out, she was determined, she said, to go a *shopping*; and true enough she did. She purchased also articles from Mr. Price,

of

of Tavistock-street, to a great amount : from thence she went to Mr. Jefferson's the jeweller, at Charing-cross, where she bought a pair of diamond ear-rings, which cost her three hundred pounds ; and from thence to her milliner's, and other places. In short, she spent the whole day in purchasing, and laid out to the amount of seven hundred pounds. In our way home our carriage was interrupted in the Haymarket, by a crowd gathered round a poor man, who had fallen down under his load and broke his leg. Her humanity exerted itself upon this occasion ; she stopped the carriage, gave him five guineas, and paid for a chair to take him to the hospital. On our return home, we found cards
of

of compliments from Sir Francis Molineux and Lord Sefton.

Few persons in the world experienced its smiles more than Mrs. Baddeley did at this time: rank and fortune bowed before her; and it rested with herself, whether she would be mistress of a competence or not. Frugality was no part of her disposition. Had she had discretion and sufficient steadiness to husband what she received, she might have saved a comfortable resource for a future day; but given up, as she was, to profuseness and extravagance, she thoughtlessly squandered, what would have made her happy when her friends deserted her.

Lord

Lord Melbourne called in the evening, and Mrs. Baddeley displayed before him the many purchases she had that day made. His Lordship's reply was, he hoped she had pleased herself; then turned round and presented her with three hundred pounds, apologizing that he had not sufficient about him to discharge her little account: at this she told him he need not be uneasy, for the bills were all paid. His Lordship then related a laughable circumstance that happened since he saw us last. He had made a purchase of Holland-House, in Piccadily, for sixteen thousand pounds, with the ground belonging to it. The steward appointed to receive the cash, waited on his Lordship for that purpose. Having

VOL. I.

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received

received it in bank-notes, he put them in his pocket-book, and laying it on the table, whilst he signed an acknowledgment for the money, went away and left it there. As soon as Lord Melbourne perceived it, he dispatched his servant after him, but he was gone too far to be recalled; of course his Lordship put it away safely for him. The steward having several other matters of business to transact, in the course of the day, did not miss his pocket-book till he was going to bed. When he began to undress himself, in a fit almost of distraction at his loss, as he could not recollect where he had left it, he determined to go back to every place where he had been that day; first calling

ing

ing at Lord Melbourne's; and in the confusion he forgot his wig, and came without it. In this state he begged to see his Lordship, but was informed he was not at home. Not believing this, he pushed up stairs, and entered the room where Lady Melbourne was sitting. Alarmed at seeing a strange man entering her room bare-headed, at that time of night, for it was near twelve, she screamed; but on the servants coming up, and her being made acquainted with the man's errand, as she could give no information concerning it, she could only pity him, and his distressed state of mind. Lord Melbourne soon after came home, to whom the poor man, with frantic wildness, mixed with

melancholy, told his story ; and the joy that succeeded when his Lordship returned him his book, may be better conceived than described.

Lord Pigot, who originally availed himself of the sanction his gravity gave him in our house, but whose professed friendship afterwards kindled into a more interesting sensation, called upon us one day, and invited us to pass a few days at Brighthelmstone; which we accepted, and promised to be there on the Sunday following. We set out in our phaëton, and arrived at his Lordship's by dinner time. His attention and politeness were not the least abated by the repulse he met with, when he made declarations

clarations of love to Mrs. Baddeley, and after dinner he proposed a walk. A house on the Stein being then to let, next the Duke of Marlborough's, we went to look at it, and on viewing it, hired it as a temporary residence; and as it was ready for our reception, we took possession of it that evening.

The charms of the season had drawn together, at this place, a great number of people of the first fashion; and every thing contributing to make this retreat desirable, we resolved to spend as much time there as we could. After placing the house under the care of proper servants, we returned the next day to London. Lord Melbourne was sur-

prised at not being informed of this excursion, and Mrs Baddeley seeming to be hurt at his Lordship's suppositions, an explanation took place, and he was told every thing that passed: his Lordship was pleased to express a satisfaction at our having taken a house at Brighthelmstone, as he was under a necessity of going with his dear Betsey to Scarborough for a month, and hoped Mrs. Baddeley would find sea-bathing and sea-breezes conduce to her health. As this, he said, was dear to him, he particularly recommended to her the care of it, it having been much injured by too close an application to her theatrical engagements. On his return to town, he promised to pay us a visit there,

there; and her coach was new painted, and highly varnished for the journey.

His Lordship informed us that he was at the rehearsal of the opera, the day before, with Lady Melbourne, and that the audience was as numerous as if it was evening; and was particularly pleased with Madame Heinel's dancing, which exceeded his expectations. He next informed us of a paragraph he had seen in the news-papers that day respecting him, which must have been inserted by some malicious person. It was to this effect, "that he had purchased a diamond necklace for Mrs. Baddeley, and that the jeweller had taken it home to his Lordship's house through

“ through mistake; that it fell into
“ Lady Melbourne’s hands, who, con-
“ ceiving it purchased for her, approved
“ his Lordship’s choice, and put it
“ among the rest of her jewels; and that,
“ on his coming home, her Ladyship
“ thanked him for his present, which
“ surpris’d and alarmed him.” Every
circumstance of this story was false and
groundless, and it was manifestly in-
serted for some evil purpose: it, how-
ever, failed in its design; for Lady
Melbourne, reading the paragraph, only
smiled at the tale, and said the paper
might have been better employed.

Mrs. Baddeley acquainted Lord Mel-
bourne, that she propos’d going to
Richmond

Richmond next day to see a friend: his Lordship wished to be of the party; but she put a negative on it, as his Lordship's being seen with her there, would be in him an act of impropriety. He smiled acquiescence, and we went to Richmond without him. Our party consisted of six, among whom were Lord Stanley (now Lord Derby) and Thomas Storer, Esq. The day was very agreeably spent; the entertainment was splendid; a well-chosen band of music, and some excellent voices performed during the evening, and we returned to town late.

Going to the rehearsal at the Opera-house, according to Lord Melbourne's recom-

recommendation, in order to see Madame Heinel dance, the Honourable Mr. Hobart, and Mr. Crawford, joint-managers, came up to us, and paid their respects. Mr. Hobart begged leave to pay Mrs. Baddeley a visit, having something particular to say to her. She, not suspecting his business was of any other nature than relative to the box I had engaged, told him she should be happy to see him when he called. On our return home in the evening, we found Mr. Hobart there, who said he had waited for us an hour. The purport of his visit was to make Mrs. Baddeley a profession of his love, with an offer of his protection, and the command of whatever was in his power to endow her with.

with. She thanked him for his kind intentions, but told him, whatever opinion he might entertain of her from appearance, he could have no ground to form the smallest hopes of success in his present proposal. Her attention was solely fixed to one object, from whom her esteem and gratitude were inseparable. Mr. Hobart remonstrated, and pressed his suit with all the arguments he was master of; but Mrs. Baddeley assured him that his visits on any other terms than those of friendship would be inadmissible; and as a *friend*, she could have no objection to the honour of his acquaintance among that of others.

Before

Before Mr. Hobart withdrew, he requested we would permit him to give us a receipt for our box at the Opera-house, the price of which was eighty pounds for the season. We refused this offer; but Mr. Hobart persisting in it, we were constrained to accept it. He wrote a receipt and left it, professing himself happy in being admitted into the class of Mrs. Baddeley's friends. Before he withdrew, he informed us, that there would be shortly a masquerade at the Opera-house, and he should take the liberty to send us tickets.

Mr. Timothy Caswell, then Secretary to Mr. Rigby, an old acquaintance of Mrs. Baddeley's. waited on her one day,
and

and told her that a person with whom he was intimately acquainted, was very desirous of being introduced to her; her reply was, that any friend of his would be well received. In a few days this friend was introduced, whose name shall be mentioned hereafter.

The reader will naturally be inquisitive to know whether among all these visitants she had not seen Mr. John Hanger. To satisfy him in this, I will inform him, that one evening, when she was at Vauxhall-gardens, since she dropped her professional character, he came up to her, and addressed her with his usual confidence and flattery. She entreated he would leave her, but he

declared he would not. She then determined, in order to get rid of him, to leave the gardens, and went to the house of a friend in King's-row Chelsea, to spend the evening.

Lord Melbourne having occasion to go down with a friend to his country-seat, near Hatfield; Mrs. Baddeley took the opportunity to visit Oxford, and when every thing was arranged for the purpose, Mr. Damer called and requested to be of the party, but was refused. We ordered our coach and four and took Dr. Arne with us; and stopping in our way there, at Maidenhead-bridge, were handed from our carriage by Lord Villiers, and the late Lord Lyttelton,

Lyttelton, who insisted we should stay and dine with them. Though we would not permit Mr. Damer to go with us, yet on our arrival at Oxford, no sooner did we reach the inn, than this gentleman presented himself to hand us out, having been at Oxford two hours waiting for us. We could not refuse him our company, and he ordered a very elegant supper for us at his own expence. We parted for the evening, but in the morning he breakfasted with us, and conducted us to the several colleges. In the evening we set off again for town, and Mr. Damer would entertain us again at Salt-hill. As he had not an opportunity of saying what he wished to Mrs. Baddeley, he endeavoured by his

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eyes.

eyes and inuendos to explain himself, but she parried the whole so dexterously as not to seem to notice them. The fineness of the day led us into the garden, and to our great surprise, we were there accosted by Mr. John Hanger, who had left town in search of us: he would fain have joined us, but was absolutely refused. "Well," says he, turning to Mr. Damer, "since you won't let me be
" of your party, I am determined I'll
" tell." "Do so," says he, "and it will
" reflect an honour on me, for I shall glory
" in having it known with whom I spent
" the day." We laughed heartily and he left us. "This man," says Mr. Damer, "is
" now so angry, that he would destroy me
" if he could, for my attention to you;
" but

“but whilst I am pursuing the wish of
 “my heart, I neither regard what he
 “can devise or effect; so as he does
 “not interrupt the happiness of my
 “friend” (looking steadfastly at Mrs.
 Baddeley); “and I hope I may take the
 “liberty to call you by that endearing
 “name, though that of lover would suit
 “my feelings best.” “Leave love out
 “of the question,” replies Mrs. Bad-
 deley, “and call upon me for as much
 “friendship, as my mind is capable of
 “entertaining, and your suit will not
 “be in vain; but as my heart is not my
 “own, to talk of love would be injuri-
 “ous to us both.” Mr. Damer listen-
 ed, looked, and wished to speak, but
 had not power; a silence of some length

ensued, and yet the party was as much engaged, as if they had all been talking. The eloquent sensibility of the eyes conveyed information to the mind of every one. Mrs. Baddeley at last broke the silence, by warbling forth the words of an old song, with which she had often charmed a listening crowd.

Before we go away, fir,

As we may never meet again,

Give me leave to thank you, fir,

For the gen'rous care you've ta'en;

Your candour might impeach me,

Were I blind to your desert ;

Though love can never reach me,

Friendship may touch my heart.

The

The evening advancing fast, we proposed setting off, and Mr. Damer requesting a seat in our coach, we gave him a cast to town, and set him down at the end of Park-lane, continuing our way to Grafton-street, where we found that Lord Palmerston, Lord Clanbrazil, Sir Thomas Mills, Mr. Caswell, and Mr. Hanger had called; but the latter had said nothing of his having seen us at Salt-hill.

In our absence, our cook was delivered of a fine boy, which Mrs. Baddeley, having no children of her own, thought proper to adopt, and put it out to nurse at her own expence, suffering the mother

ther to continue in our house till she was able to go abroad.

This was not the only child her humanity led her to adopt; she had the son of her nurse at school at her own expence, whom she cloathed, and to whom she gave the best education; and did a thousand little kindneses to his mother.

The next morning after our return from Oxford, Lord Melbourne called, being just returned from the country; he could not, he said, suffer a day to pass, without seeing his dear love, though he must return to his dear Betsey in the evening. We made him acquainted with our excursion to Oxford, and said Dr.

Arne

Arne was of the party, but not a word of Mr. Damer. In the evening he returned to his seat in the country, where he proposed to stay two days.

He was no sooner gone than we ordered our phaeton, and horses for our servants, and set off for Richmond Theatre, where Dr. Arne had invited us to a party with Capt. William Fawcner, son to Lady Fawcner, but now Lady Paulet; though he did not tell us, he had acquainted the Captain with the favour we designed him. We no sooner entered the box, than Captain Fawcner followed us, and instantly addressed us with, He had impatiently waited our arrival for some time, and was
fearful

fearful we should not come ; saying Dr. Arne had given him hopes of seeing us, but did not absolutely say we should be there. Being strangers to this gentleman, we were at a loss to know who he was, who still continued talking to us ; said, he had seen the same play twice before, and it was so wretchedly performed, that he was sure it would give us no pleasure, and advised us to leave the Theatre. Dr. Arne, who followed him in, joined him in his request. After a little time, we took his advice and retired to the Castle Inn; to tea, where Captain Fawkner attended us. He soon began to deal in flames and darts ; in short, to say, he was over head and ears in love with Mrs. Baddeley, whom
he

he had long wished for the happiness of conversing with; in a word, no pen can describe the complexion and turn of the nonsense that fell from this gentleman's tongue. I gave him some of my friendly advice, but without effect; and Mrs. Baddeley paying too great an attention to what he was saying, I thought proper to order the carriage, and was setting off to town by myself; but Mrs. Baddeley followed me out, and requested I would not leave her. After telling her how improperly she acted, she took leave of Captain Fawkner, and we set off for town together. The Captain earnestly entreated leave to accompany us, but was refused. Mrs. Baddeley, however, as I afterwards understood, made

made a private engagement to meet Mr. Fawkner again, whilst I was ordering the carriage. In our way home we took up Mr. Hobart on the road, whom we met on horseback, and set him down in St. James's Square.

On our return home I took Mrs. Baddeley to task for her imprudence, in listening to Captain Fawkner's nonsense ; a man whom she had never seen before. Mrs. Baddeley laughed, which made me enquire further into the business ; at last she thought proper to tell me, that she had seen him before, and that the appointment to meet him at Richmond, was by her own desire, through the means of Dr. Arne. This gave

gave me more uneasiness than I ever felt before, as I now found Mrs. Baddeley abused my confidence, and was not to be depended on. She was in the situation of him described by the Poet.

He who first sins, like him who treads on ice,
Glides trembling down the slipp'ry paths of vice;
At first thrice cautious, but the fears got o'er,
He glides on boldly, and looks back no more:

Calling at our mantua-maker's the next morning, we saw a dress belonging to Mrs. Abington of Drury-lane Theatre, which we thought uncommonly beautiful; it was a muslin sprigged with gold; Mrs. Abington's own work in the Tambour. Mrs. Baddeley seeming to covet it, the woman told her she

believed Mrs. Abington would part with it. This induced us to call on Mrs. Abington, and twenty guineas being the price put on it, which was far below it's value, Mrs. Baddeley purchased it. This accidental interview brought on a conversation about a ready-furnished house at Hammersmith-hope, which Mrs. Abington wished to part with also. The situation being near the river, she said it was delightful, and we were induced to go and see it. An invitation accordingly took place to spend a day there. We went and could not but admire it's beauty, it's neatness, and elegance, qualities which were apparent in every thing Mrs. Abington possessed, and shewed us that she had equally as refined a taste in furnishing.

furnishing a house, as in making up a dress.

We were of course anxious to become possessed of it. Two hundred and fifty pounds was the value set upon the furniture, and the lease to be paid for besides. I agreed that evening to purchase the whole at the fixed price, called on Mrs. Abington the next day and paid her the money. This, with Grafton-street house, and the house at Bright-helmstone, was the third residence we at one time possessed. It is but justice to the liberality of Mrs. Abington, to say, that the price she put upon the furniture was much less than what a broker who saw

it had valued it at; of course we thought ourselves obliged.

On our return home after this purchase, Mrs. Baddeley found the following letter from Lord Melbourne.

“ My Dear Love,

“ I am hurt, it is not in my power
“ to come to town to see your sweet
“ face until to-morrow. Pray, my dear,
“ be at home; I have something to
“ tell you of consequence, besides my
“ own wish of being happy in your dear
“ company. God bless your sweet face;
“ adieu until to-morrow.

“ Your's to command,

“ Melbourne.

“ *Brocket-hall,*
“ *Monday morning.*”

This

This intelligence was matter of chagrin to Mrs. Baddeley, as it not only disappointed her of seeing Lord Melbourne as soon as she expected, but it broke off an engagement she had made with me the next day; so that she peevishly wished his Lordship was further off than a few miles from town. She thought proper to tell me, that, when I was gone to take possession of the house at Hammer-smith, she received a visit from Captain Fawkner, who staid with her an hour and a half; she called him a good young man, and expressed herself very happy in his company. Not contented with this, she passed on him the highest encomiums, spoke highly of his personal accomplishments, and declar-

ed he was as handsome as an angel. In short, she said so much in his favour and of the pleasure she felt in his company, that I could not but censure her for her imprudence. I told her, as I could not conceive upon what pretence he came, I should take an opportunity to affront him, the next time he presumed to come into my house. Besides, Captain Fawkner being a man of universal gallantry, attached to no individual, and who boasted of favours he pretended to have received from a married Lady of the first rank, which was notoriously false, I thought him a very dangerous companion: "therefore," says I, "let his beauty and accomplishments be what they will, I never wish to see
" him

" him again. He that will tell me one
 " lie, will not hesitate at another, and if
 " he could speak so freely and basely
 " of a Lady, on whom there was never
 " the least impeachment of character,
 " what may you not expect, he will one
 " day say of you?" The Lady I alluded
 to was, in every sense of the word, truly
 virtuous, though unhappy in a dissipated
 husband, and no woman during a long
 separation from his bed, acted with
 more becoming prudence or propriety
 than she did, till at last she brought him
 to a sense of his indiscretion, and re-
 covered him to the enjoyment of do-
 mestic happiness.

Mrs.

Mrs. Baddeley acknowledged the truth of all I said, but notwithstanding, found herself unable to erase or smother the impression Captain Fawkner had made on her. The matter however ended on my resolution not to admit of his visits.

Being one day at Mr. Ridley's, the bookseller in St. James's-street, where Mrs. Baddeley purchased books, to the amount of fifty-six pounds; Lord Harrington, the father of the present Lord, who was then in the shop, begged he might be permitted to pay for them, and have the honour of presenting them to us. This we declined. He then requested

requested we would accept of a set of books of his own selection, and this was declined also. His Lordship seemed much hurt at our non-acceptance of the books, but more so, on being refused leave to pay us a visit in Grafton-street. He declared however, that he would take no denial, but would call on us the next day. On leaving the shop we stepped a few doors further up, to purchase some fruit; Mrs. Baddeley asked the price of a pine-apple; and being told a guinea, for the first time since I knew her, she declined to gratify her inclination at such an expence. But, the Duke of Ancafter being in the shop, afterwards purchased the pine, and sent it

it home to her with a complimentary note, of which the following is a copy.

“ The unexpected pleasure of seeing
“ Mrs. Baddeley this morning, gives
“ no time for imparting a matter of
“ some consequence to her. The pine-
“ apple will inform who writes this, and
“ this evening he will call at nine, to
“ communicate what it is to Mrs.
“ Baddeley.

“ *Thursday, twelve o'clock.*”

On leaving St. James's-street, we went for an airing into Hyde Park, where we were met by Lord Clanbrazil, who invited us to dine with him; we accepted his Lordship's invitation, and
hurrying

hurrying home to dress, found the above note from the Duke of Ancafter, and also the following from Mr. R. Conway.

“ Mr. R. Conway’s respectful compliments to Mrs. Baddeley, and Mrs. Steele, and begs they would permit him to wait on them to tea this evening.

“ *Thursday noon.*”

We answered Mr. Conway’s card, and told him we should be happy in his company at any future time, but must be excused the present, as we were going out on a prior engagement. We also left a message with the servant, to
be

be delivered to a gentleman who was to call at nine o'clock. He was instructed to be very particular in informing him, that we dined out, and should, with a party spend the evening at Vauxhall, and that it was out of Mrs. Baddeley's power to be at home agreeable to the appointment made, but that at any other time, she should be happy to receive his communications, relative to the matter contained in his message.

We arrived at Lord Clanbrazil's at four, and his Lordship handed us from our carriage, and conducted us up stairs, where to our great surprize, the first person who presented himself was Baddeley's once dear Gaby. This unexpected

expected rencontre shocked her for the moment, and it was noticed by the whole company. She turned quite pale, all her animation left her, and it was some seconds before she was able to sustain herself. He came up to her and me, and asked how we did, but his civility was returned by us with a marked coolness. When the company sat down to dinner, he seated himself by Mrs. Baddeley, who instantly rose and removed her seat next to me. This was no small mortification to Mr. Hanger's pride. During dinner it was observable that neither he nor Mrs. Baddeley eat any thing; and Lord Clanbrazil, who was not only a man of gallantry, but a good-hearted man, used his utmost en-

deavours to bring about a reconciliation between them. These endeavours of his Lordship gave great pain to Mrs. Baddeley. So certain is the change from love to hatred, whenever the bond that unites two hearts is snapped asunder by any ingratitude or cruelty in the one, that a coalition with any other object is easier effected than a reunion of the former two.

Soon after dinner we attempted to withdraw, but Lord Clanbrazil requested we would not deprive him of the pleasure he proposed to himself for the evening, in our company, and to partake of which indeed he had invited these his friends; and promised, on condition we would stay,

say, he would avoid introducing the same disagreeable topic again, which he observed made Mrs. Baddeley so unhappy. He then proposed a party to Vauxhall. Mrs. Baddeley wrote with a pencil and gave it to Lord Clanbrazil, that she should have no objection, if Mr. Hanger was not to be of the party; but if he was, she must beg leave to be excused. His Lordship said, he would take care that he should not.

It perhaps may not be unnecessary to say, that though Mrs. Baddeley's company was not coveted for her vocal abilities, yet it seldom if ever happened that she was in company with any of her friends, that they were not eager to hear

her sing; and her politeness and good-nature never refused it, when she was able to oblige them. In a room, her voice was melodious, and her taste was not exceeded by the first singer of the age. Mrs. Baddeley, when asked for a song, was always happy in the recollection of one which suited the occasion of the meeting, the conversation then on the carpet, or the conviviality of the parties; being asked for a song here, she began that of Sappho's ode.

Blest as the immortal gods is he,
The youth, who fondly sits by thee,
And hears, and sees thee all the while,
Gently talk and sweetly smile.

'Twas

'Twas this depriv'd my soul of rest,
 And rais'd such tumults in my breast ;
 For whilst I gaz'd, in transport tost,
 My voice was gone, my heart was lost.

The emotion with which she sung the
 line,

'Twas this depriv'd my soul of rest,

Struck every one present so forcibly
 that their eyes were fixed on Mr.
 Hanger. His face was in a blaze, he
 did not seem to know whether he was
 sitting in his chair or not, and was agi-
 tated as if with conscious guilt.

After tea, we prepared for Vauxhall,
 Mr. Hanger only excepted, who with-

drew, much hurt and confused at the reception he met with. Lord Clanbrazil accompanied us in our carriage, and the rest of the company followed in their own. As soon as the performance at the garden was over, an elegant supper was prepared, the band of music was engaged to play during the repast, and the serenity and softness of the weather contributed not a little to the pleasures of the evening.

Next morning, whilst we were at breakfast, Lord Melbourne came in, and we made him acquainted with our having taken Mrs. Abington's house at Hammersmith; and that our servants were now in it. He commended our expedition,

expedition, and hoped, (as he always did, when we informed him of any new step we had taken,) that we had pleased ourselves. Desirous of seeing this new residence, he accompanied us there, and was highly delighted with the beauty and elegance of the place, and wished us to reside there, on our return from Bright-helmstone, as much as possible.

The business his Lordship had to impart to us was, that he was to set out for Scarborough, on the Tuesday following; and therefore requested his dear love would let him know the amount of her debts, that he might discharge them before he went. She told him his great liberality to her, since she had the honour
of

of knowing him, put her above the necessity of running in debt, of course she had none to trouble him with. He then gave her five hundred pounds, and said, if she found herself in want of more before his return, to let him know it by a line to Scarborough, and he would instantly remit it.

At this visit Lord Melbourne was more explicit than he had ever been yet; and whilst I was treating with the ground-landlord for a piece of ground adjoining, in order to build a coach-house on, Lord Melbourne had put Baddeley into the highest spirits. She and his Lordship looked at each other, and laughed very heartily. “You,”
says

says Mrs. Baddeley to me, "have just
 " made *your* agreement, and so have
 " I *mine*." And then they laughed
 again. What occasioned this flow of
 spirits, we must leave our readers to
 conjecture.

Lord Melbourne now took his leave,
 and Mr. Damer soon after made his ap-
 pearance, and seeing Mrs. Baddeley in
 unusual spirits, said, "What's come to
 " you to-day? Tell us. Let us laugh
 " with you." "No, no," says she, "it is
 " fun of my own making. It is in con-
 " sequence of a journey I took to-day.
 " Mrs. Steele thinks she is not often de-
 " ceived, but I have deceived her to-
 " day, as I have done before, and
 " she

“ she is not pleased with it.” Indeed she might truly say it, as it was the first time I had any suspicion of her having had any private connexion with Lord Melbourne. This made Mr. Damer more inquisitive still, but he could obtain no explanation. He then wished he had been of the party: Mrs. Baddeley wished so too, and fell into another fit of laughter. He began then to think she was laughing at him; and asked if he had given any affront; she said, no; and a letter being at that instant brought in from Mr. Hanger, it put an end to her laughing. She read the letter, apologizing for the liberty, and when done, sent her compliments and said it required no answer.

Mr.

Mr. Hanger's letter was as follows :

“ Dear Madam,

“ I am distracted at your conduct to me yesterday, and miserable
“ beyond description, to be at the same
“ table and to have all the company's
“ observations on my folly ; yet I cannot
“ term it so, as it rises from my
“ great affection for you. Dear Sophia,
“ can you torture a man you once loved
“ in preference to all the world ? I
“ know I am despised by your friend,
“ and of course she is my enemy ; I
“ shall live to reward her with such
“ thanks as may not please. Yet, my
“ dear Sophia, let me crave your pardon
“ for all my cruel neglect of you,
“ and

“ and take me to your heart : I will be
“ grateful, and it rests with you to make
“ me happy, or miserable. Send me
“ your answer, if I may be so blest as to
“ be permitted to call on you ; when I
“ will atone for my past conduct, and
“ study to make you happy ; am impatient to hear from my dear Sophia.

“ I remain, my dear Sophia,

“ Your constant, unalterable,

“ though unhappy lover,

“ J. Hanger.

“ *Saturday ; Sutton-street,*

“ *Piccadilly.*”

Mr. Damer pressing much to see Mr. Hanger's letter, after some little demur, his request was complied with, and he
was

was much diverted with it's contents. It occasioned a good deal of laughter between Mrs. Baddeley and him, and he exclaimed several times, "Poor Gaby, " is it at last come to this !"

It was an act of imprudence in Mrs. Baddeley, notwithstanding her anger, to shew Mr. Damer, Mr. Hanger's letter ; but this imprudence was general with her, and was one of her usual weaknesses : she had unfortunately a babbling tongue, and could keep nothing a secret ; the private conversation of one, she would communicate to another ; and though she felt not it's ill effects at present, it was in the end very injurious to her.

Mr. Damer was very solicitous for leave to pay his visits more frequent; but was told, it was a matter he must not urge, as there were reasons to the contrary, which she could not at present acquaint him with.

The next morning a gentleman sent in his name and requested either to see Mrs. Baddeley or me. I received him, and begging to know his commands, was told, that he waited on us at the instance of his Grace of Ancafter, to tell Mrs. Baddeley, with his respectful compliments, that he had waited on her, agreeable to his promise in the note he sent; and not finding her at home, had left word he would call at some other time;

time ; that his business now was to acquaint her, that with Mrs. Baddeley's permission, his Grace would do himself the honour of waiting on her on Sunday evening ; and if it did not suit her to see him at her own house, he would give her the meeting at some little distance from town. I told him Mrs. Baddeley was at home, but so engaged, that I could not acquaint her with his Grace's message ; and was she even at liberty, I could not think of doing it, as there were many reasons, why his visits could not be permitted. The gentleman replied, upon his honour, that his Grace was not coming as a suitor, but as a friend and well-wisher to Mrs. Baddeley, and, as a test of it, the Duke

begged my acceptance of a trifle, which he had purposely brought. At this he took out of his pocket-book, notes, to the amount of upwards of two hundred pounds, and offered them to me, which I refused, with some degree of resentment, and told him "I was not to be bribed." He wished me not to consider the present in that light, but as an earnest of his Grace's friendship to Mrs. Baddeley, who lived in my house. I replied, "that if he did not drop the subject, I should immediately quit the room; and said, his Grace might spare himself the trouble of calling, for I should by no means admit of his visits at my house." The gentleman was rather displeased at this, and said, that

that his Grace's intentions were honourable, and did not merit such a return. "In what respect," replied I, "can they be honourable? Mrs. Baddeley's situation in life does not entitle her to receive such noble visitants, on *honourable* terms, and therefore they must be *dishonourable*; and I flatter myself, she is so circumstanced at present, as to enable her to act with more prudence, than to suffer such insults as his Grace's visits must amount to." On this I rung the bell for my servant, to attend him to the door, and left him.

This person was no sooner gone, than Mrs. Baddeley came down stairs, eager to know the result of this visit, and on

my relating the whole, she hastily replied, " Why did not you take the
" money and laugh at him ? The Duke
" could afford to pay for his imperti-
" nence, and had I been present I
" would have made him." When I related to her what I had said respecting her situation in life, not entitling her to the honour of visits from men of such rank, she was rather hurt, and would not admit there was any disgrace in receiving them ; and thought he might have been permitted to have come. At this I replied with some warmth, " that her
" visits and visitors had already caused
" me a great deal of unhappiness, and I
" was determined, she should receive
" no more of them under my roof :
" that

“ that his offering me a bribe, was an
“ insult of the highest degree, and that I
“ was just on the eve of calling up my
“ servant to turn him out of the house.”

At this Mrs. Baddeley laughed, said she was only in joke, and begged I would not be angry. Lord Melbourne coming in at this juncture, put a stop to the conversation. He brought a pine-apple in his pocket, and said his dear Betsy (meaning his lady) had sent it; which however he contradicted by a smile. His Lordship had no sooner left us, than Lord Sefton called, to whom we were denied, and he was immediately followed by Captain Fawkner. On the servant's saying Mrs. Baddeley was not

at

at home, she, seeing him from the window, called out, "Yes I am."

Captain Fawkner flew instantly to the stairs, where I stopped his career by saying, "If you want Mrs. Baddeley, sir, and she thinks proper to receive your visits, you must see her in the parlour." On which Mrs. Baddeley called out to him, "Mrs. Steele, I find, is out of humour, and I must wish you good morning; for I must not, nor will I, offend her." He was displeased at this, and said, "Let her be offended; only give me leave to say six words to you alone, and I'll be gone." However, she was prudent enough to say, she was too much engaged for the present,

present, hoped he would not take it amiss, and should be happy to see him at some other time. During this conversation on the stairs, Lord March, now Duke of Queensberry, was admitted, and saw Captain Fawkner, with whom, after his usual politeness to us, he entered into chat, and they were desired to walk into the parlour, accompanied by Mrs. Baddeley and me; and a harpsichord being in the room, at the joint request of the gentlemen, Mrs. Baddeley sung them a song.

In the interim came Mr. Robert Conway, and Mr. William Hanger, who were shewn into the drawing-room; and their names being sent in, his
 Lordship

Lordship and Mr. Fawkner took their leave. — On our entering the drawing-room, Mr. Hanger told us his brother was ill, and asked, if we had not heard of it. Mrs. Baddeley replied, “ I am
“ sorry to learn he is not well, but wish
“ never to hear his name mentioned in
“ my presence.” “ What not your poor
“ Gaby ?” says Mr. Hanger, who, by the by, was not a little piqued and jealous at his brother’s supplanting him.

It is somewhat singular that these brothers should all be running after the same woman. George, the third brother, like the other two, used every means in his power to gain Mrs. Baddeley’s affections, but to no purpose. Mr. Conway
was

was on the same plan ; but though an admirer of her person, he was always too much her friend to intrude upon her, and received a denial of his wishes, with that sensibility and calmness as did honour to his heart.

Lord Melbourne came now to take his leave, as he was going to Scarborough the next morning, for a second time within the month ; and presented Mrs. Baddeley with four hundred pounds, saying, if she wanted more in his absence, on writing to him she should immediately have it. His Lordship must have loved her, for he always shed tears at parting with her. He ever called her his dearest love, and seldom left her without

without blessing her sweet face : a hackney coach was now called, and he left us ; for he never came in his own carriage.

THE END OF THE FIRST VOLUME,

The following are a few of Lord Melbourne's letters. No. I. was sent to Mrs. Steele, the day after he fled out of the parlour window, in St. James's-place.

No. I.

" Dear Mrs. Steele,

" I am afraid you got your trim-
" mings last night; fend me word back
" if my dear creature will meet me
" in the same place in Westminster-
" Abby, to day at four o'clock.

Vol. I.

R

" Otherwise

" Otherwise I fear I shall not see her
 " to day. I have got her a Masque-
 " rade ticket.

" Your's,

" Melbourne."

" To Mrs. Steele,

" St. James's-place."

No. II.

" Richmond, Sept. 1, 1771.

" My dear Love,

" I hope you received my let-
 " ter from York; that it found you
 " quite well; I long much to see you,
 " and

“ and think it an age since I had that
“ happynefs; I fhall be able to return
“ in three weeks, and will immediately
“ be in London to fee you. I wifh I
“ fhould make it but 3 days: but
“ you will, I hope, be afured that it
“ is not in my power to help it; I long
“ to here from you, but I muft po-
“ pone that happynefs for fear your
“ letters fhould be feen. God blefs
“ you, and don’t lett this abfence leffen
“ your love, for, my dear,

“ Your’s, &c.

“ Affectionately,

“ Melbourne.”

" P. S. Ten thousand kisses I in-
 " close you. I have directed this to
 " Pimlico, as you may perhaps be re-
 " turned from Brighthelmston. I will
 " let you know soon exactly when I
 " can see you.

" Adieu Love."

" To Mrs. Baddeley,

" Pimlico."

No. III.

" My dearest Love,

" This is the first moment I could
 " get to inform you, that I can't come
 " out

" out of doors this day; my eyes are
" exceedingly inflamed. I am obliged
" to keep them covered with parsley
" and cream; can scarcely look long
" and nuff to write this.

" *Saturday.*

" *To Mrs. Baddeley.*"

No. IV.

" My Love,

" I am just returned to town,
" and as I unexpectedly have found
" the child much out of order, I am
" obliged to stay at home till the

R 3

Dockter

" Dockter comes, which may be late
" first, and therefore deprives me of the
" pleasure of seeing you to night, but
" I will call to morrow, at two o'clock.
" I hope you are got quite well again,
" you may be assured nothing else
" should have hindered me the happy-
" ness of seeing my love to night; in
" the mean time I send you a thousand
" kisses.

" Your's,

" Melbourne."

" To Mrs. Baddeley."

No.

No. V.

" My dear Love,

" You can't conceive how
" unhappy I was, being disappointed
" of the happiness of seeing you, but
" I flatter myself you will be convinced
" that it was totally impossible for me,
" as I was obliged to go to the club
" with some ladies, who obliged me
" to play 'till after supper, when you
" know I could not be so happy to call
" on you on many accounts. My dear;
" I hope you will not be angry, as
" you know I have ever made a point
" not

“ not to disappoint you, which nothing
“ that would hinder, should ever make
“ me do ; and if you knew how happy
“ I am to see you, you will pity my
“ being so unfortunate as not to see
“ you half so much as I wish.—I am
“ just going into the country, shall re-
“ turn in the evening, and am obliged
“ to go with Lady Bellafyze, to Vaux-
“ hall ; if, after your singing, you can
“ come there, it will give me pleasure
“ to see you. As I go to Bath on
“ Wednesday next, I beg to be so
“ happy as to see you at Pimlico to-
“ morrow at nine o'clock. My dear
“ love, think of me, and be sure that
“ any thing that hinders my seeing you,
“ will

MRS. SOPHIA BADDELEY. 201

" will ever give me pain. I fend you
" ten thousand kisses.

" Melbourne."

" *To Mrs. Baddeley.*"

No. VI.

" My dear Love,

" I have just seen your picture
" at Reynold's, and think it will be
" well done. I fend you a million of
" kisses, and long to see you, on which
" account I will stay as short a time as
" I can in the country. I hope to see

R 5

" you

" you by Wednesday next. My life,
" think of me; remember I love you
" Saturday, Sunday, and every day.

" Yours ever,

" Melbourne."

" *To Mrs. Baddeley.*"

No. VII.

" My Love,

" As there is no Rannels to day,
" I will call on you to night at nine
" o'clock. You will I know excuse my
" not calling now, as you know the
" hazard

“ hazard I run in being seen in the day
“ time, otherwise I should be happy in
“ seeing my love every minnutt; with
“ sending you a thousand kisses.

“ Yours ever,

“ Melbourne.”

“ *To Mrs. Baddeley.*”

1
The Great Migration

It is a story of the great migration of the
black people from the South to the North
and West. It is a story of the struggle
for freedom and equality.

1915-1918

The Great Migration
1915-1918